

Hafa Adai!

Arrest warrant issued for daughter of Senate president. **PAGE 2**

New recycling initiative offers cash for aluminum cans. **PAGE 3**

\$1

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IN TORRES' CRIMINAL TRIAL

Ex-first lady a potential juror

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER



Torres

Former first lady Diann Tudela Torres, along with over 200 other individuals, has been summoned as one of the potential jurors in the criminal case of former governor Ralph DLG Torres.

The NMI Superior Court has issued a list of two jury panels, each consisting of 150 prospective jurors, for a total of 300 prospective jurors, for

See JUROR on Page 4

'Guam's military population encouraged to tour CNMI'



Nicholson

» JRM commander meets with Palacios

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Joint Region Marianas commander Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson met

with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios in the governor's conference room Friday afternoon, during which they discussed upcoming military exercises in the CNMI and Palacios' plan to develop military tourism to pivot

See GUAM on Page 4

CPA has no position on China pivot

» 'Even if all military in Guam were to travel to the CNMI, it's not enough'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Kimberly King-Hinds says the agency takes no position on Gov. Arnold I. Palacios' recent decision to pivot the CNMI's

See CPA on Page 4



King-Hinds

GOOD FRIDAY PENANCE

A thick blanket of fog and chilly rain smother the road going up Mt. Tapochau, as devotees carry a large wooden cross on their shoulders to the peak of the mountain—the highest point on the island of Saipan—during the traditional Good Friday pilgrimage up Mt. Tapochau. **Story and more photos on Page 7**

CHRYSTAL MARINO



Study: Warming may push more hurricanes toward US coasts

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP SCIENCE WRITER

Changes in air patterns as the world warms will likely push more and nastier hurricanes up against the United States' east

See STUDY on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Days until 'touchback rule' takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:

173

INSIDE



BUSINESS

What's not to like about the eat-and-swim deal at the Aqua Resort Club Saipan?

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NATION

A House committee chairman says the U.S. must take seriously the threat posed to Taiwan.

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WORLD

China sent dozens of fighter jets toward Taiwan on Saturday, the Taiwanese government say.

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Local

Arrest warrant issued for daughter of Senate president

The Superior Court has issued a warrant for the arrest of Nanami DLG Mafnas, who is being accused of assault and is the daughter of Senate president Edith De-leon Guerrero (D-Saipan) and former Department of Public Safety commissioner

Ray Mafnas.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho signed off last week on an arrest warrant for Nanami DLG Mafnas, 26, on charges of disturbing the peace and assault and battery.

"To any police officer,

detective, marshal, or any peace officer in the Commonwealth approved by the written declaration provided before me by [police] detective Sylvan Rangamar on this date, here is an arrest warrant issued for [Mafnas] for the charge of disturbing the

peace and assault and battery in violation of the laws of the Commonwealth Criminal Code," said Camacho.

Pursuant to the arrest warrant, the judge imposed a bail of \$5,000 on Mafnas who allegedly assaulted assistant attorney general

Keisha Blaise.

Saipan Tribune learned that, prior to the alleged assault, Blaise, a Civil Division lawyer at the Office of the Attorney General, was having a drink with her boyfriend, a fellow Civil Division attorney, and Mafnas at a Kagman residence.

Later, Mafnas allegedly opened the door of Blake's vehicle, where Blaise was said to have been resting and assaulted her.

No additional information on the case has been made available as of press time. *(Kimberly B. Esmores)*

GES wins 3rd place in McDonald's 'Race to Raise' campaign

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Garapan Elementary School was named the third-place winner in McDonald's Saipan's "Race to Raise" competition, after the school collected 239 tickets to its name, thus allowing it to bring home the \$2,000 cash prize.

McDonald's officials and employees presented the cash prize to GES vice principal Jaclyn Quitugu last March 22, 2023, at the restaurant's main location in Chalan Lau Lau, but officially released the news to the public only last week.

Quitugu extended her gratitude to those who supported the school in the cam-

paign. "We're so grateful for all our teachers, our families, our friends and our entire staff that helped us win and reach our goal. We were hoping for at least one of the Top 3 and we got third place, which is really great! The cash prize will help us with whatever we need to get for our students and our staff," she said.

The "Race to Raise" fundraiser, held as part of McDonald's of Saipan's 30th anniversary on the island, was intended to show the restaurants' support for the CNMI Public School System, education, and all students. The campaign began on March 1, 2023, and continued until March 19, 2023. During that period, patrons of McDonald's who had pur-



chased meals worth \$15 and up were encouraged to drop their receipt in a drop box designated to the school they wish to support.

As third-place winner, GES

closely tails second-place winner Kagman Elementary School, which received a \$3,000 prize. William S. Reyes Elementary School, which received a total of 602

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Garapan Elementary School's vice principal Jaclyn Quitugu, poses with McDonald's executive assistant to the president Mable A. Glenn, main branch general manager Joyce Asistores, and 2022 Employee of the Year John Michael Navarro at the Chalan Lau Lau branch last March after the school was named third place winner in McDonald's Race to Raise campaign.



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receipts, was the competition's first place winner, receiving a prize of \$5,000.

"McDonald's of Saipan values integrity, community, and family, and we are passionate in the young generation to learn and develop important skills for their bright futures," said McDonald's of

Saipan and Guam president Joe Ayuyu Sr.

As a way of further showing its support of schools, McDonald's will be giving all other participating public elementary schools in the CNMI that did not win, including Tinian, and Rota, a participation prize of \$500 each.

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GET PAID TO CLEAN UP

New recycling initiative offers cash for aluminum cans

As part of the administration's efforts to promote sustainability and economic stewardship in the CNMI, the Office of the Governor, together with the Office of Grants Management & State Clearinghouse, Bureau of Environmental & Coastal Quality, Office of Planning and Development, Zero Waste Task Force, and

the Department of Public Works, have introduced a new recycling initiative that allows community members to recycle their aluminum cans in exchange for cash.

The Recycling Redemption Initiative offers an incentive of five cents for each aluminum can collected. Residents of Saipan can ex-

change their aluminum cans at the Artman Corp. Drop Off Center in Chalan Sisonyan Road in Tanapag on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thurs-

days, Fridays, and Saturdays, from 8am to 5pm.

This initiative will be extended to the residents of Tinian and Rota in the near future as logistics and planning are still underway. Residents of Tinian and Rota will be informed when the program is

available.

This recycling initiative will be available from April 1 to Aug. 31, 2023. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of the Interior Grant No. D18AP00165. For any inquiries, contact Flor Deleon Guerrero from

the Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse at (670) 285-9284 or through email at fguerrero.ogm@gmail.com. To contact Artman Corp., call (670) 234-8079 or (670) 287-9079, or email them at artmancorporation@gmail.com. **(PR)**

SCS HONOR ROLL

Saipan Community School's 2022/2023 3rd Quarter Honor List

PRINCIPAL'S LIST: 4.00
(No grade below "A")

Iyani Muna-4th grade
Keaven Punzalan-4th grade
Hiyori Okuma-5th grade
Micaela Tenorio-5th grade
Annabella Tudela-7th grade
Byul An-8th grade
David Park-8th grade
Jeong Bin Park-8th grade
Joan Song-8th grade
Joshua Yoo-8th grade
Sharon Zhang-8th grade

"A" HONOR ROLL: 3.50
TO 3.99
(No grades below a "B")

Jihan Delos Reyes-4th grade
Dennis Guo-4th grade
Willie Guo-4th grade
Seung Ju Lee-4th grade
Olivia Um-4th grade
Wilson Guo-5th grade
Ryan Macaranas-5th grade
Claire Oh-5th grade
Vivian Chung-6th grade
Elijah Pangelinan-6th grade
Tony Xiao-6th grade
Ian Chae-7th
Jin Choi-7th grade
Elin Kim-7th
Patrick McDonald-7th grade

Daniel Nae-7th grade
Ji Hun Park-7th grade
Emma Sablan-7th grade
Jose Sablan-7th grade
Erine So-7th grade
Hannah Chae-8th grade
Ma'Ase De'Oro-8th grade
Morgan Finco-8th grade
Eugene So-8th grade
David Ye-8th grade

"B" HONOR ROLL: 3.00
TO 3.49
(No grades below a "C")

Daniel Guo-4th grade
Joshua McDonald-4th grade
Bailey Parsons-4th grade
Alexander Diaz-5th grade
David Lee-5th grade
Lily Lim-5th grade
Vanna Alvarez-6th grade
Caden Dame-6th grade
Jiyun Lee-6th grade
Nicole Williams-6th grade
William Guo-7th grade
Richard Zhao-7th grade
Daniel Malus-8th grade

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Kilili: CNMI getting \$18.2M for safe drinking water

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) said over the weekend that the CNMI is receiving a combined \$18.19 million as its allotment of the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds appropriated by the U.S. Congress in the Consolidated Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2023 and in the Infrastruc-

ture Investment and Jobs Act.

Sablan said in his *e-kilili* newsletter that the Marianas allotment from both Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY 2023 (Public Law 117-328) and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58)—also referred to as the Bipartisan Infrastructure

Law—is based on the 1.5% set-aside for the four smaller insular areas that he was able to have adopted for fiscal year 2010 in his first term in office.

He said the 1.5% set-aside has been continued in every year's appropriation since then and has provided the Marianas an extra \$103.5 mil-

lion in that time.

In addition to the \$2.2 million in fiscal year 2023 funds to ensure that drinking water is free from contaminants and another \$9.3 million to supplement that money from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Sablan said there are also \$3.3 million directly focused on lead service line replacement

See KILILI on Next Page

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This project is supported by Grant No. 15JOVW-21-GG-00814-RURA awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, US Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/proposal/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

Committee proposes additional funding for Medical Referral

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The full Senate is expected to adopt in a special session today, Monday, the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee's proposed changes in the House of Representatives' bill that would revise the budget law for the CNMI

government's operations for fiscal year 2023.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) set a special session for today at 10:30am in the Senate chamber to tackle the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee's proposed changes in the budget bill revision (House Bill 23-31, House Substitute

1, Senate Substitute 1).

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* inquiry, Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) said yesterday that the major changes that they proposed are funding to Rota, Tinian, and Executive Branch operations.

Manglona said they also proposed

an additional \$1.2-million budget for Medical Referral, which is \$200,000 more what the House had proposed.

Last March 17, the House unanimously passed House Bill 23-31, House Substitute 1, which would repeal and re-enact the budget law for FY 2023 (Public Law 22-22). House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) is the author of the legislation.

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios earlier asked the Legislature to revise the fiscal year 2023 budget, noting that just after the first quarter of fiscal year 2023, a large portion of the funds from the American Rescue Plan Act that were available for appropriation in fiscal year 2023 have already been expended and are no longer available for the rest of fiscal year 2023.

STUDY

From Page 1

and Gulf coasts, especially in Florida, a new study said.

While other studies have projected how human-caused climate change will probably alter the frequency, strength and moisture of tropical storms, the study in Friday's journal *Science Advances* focuses on the crucial aspect of where hurricanes are going.

It's all about projected changes in steering currents, said study lead author Karthik Balaguru, a Pacific Northwest National Laboratory climate scientist.

"Along every coast they're kind of pushing the storms closer to the



The bridge leading from Fort Myers to Pine Island, Fla., is seen heavily damaged in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian on Pine Island, Fla., Oct. 1, 2022. AP

U.S.," Balaguru said. The steering currents move from south to north along the Gulf of Mexico; on the East Coast, the normal west-to-east steering is lessened considerably and can be more east-to-west, he said.

Overall, in a worst-case warming scenario, the number of times a storm hits parts of the U.S. coast in general will probably increase by one-third by the end of the century, the study said, based on sophisticated climate and hurricane simulations, including a system researchers developed.

The central and southern Florida Peninsula, which juts out in the Atlantic, is projected to get even more of an increase in hurricanes hitting the coast, the study said.

Climate scientists disagree on how useful it is to focus on the worst-case scenario as the new study does because many calculations show the world has slowed its increase in carbon pollution. Balaguru said because his study looks more at steering changes than strength, the levels of warming aren't as big a factor.

JUROR

From Page 1

the jury trial of Torres, and among the perspective jurors is Torres' wife. All prospective are residents of Saipan.

Judge pro tem Alberto E. Tolentino has scheduled the jury trial for June 5, 2023.

Torres' defense team, consisting of attorneys Victorino Torres, Matthew Holley, Viola Alepuyo, and Anthony Aguon, earlier requested the court to select a jury panel from the entire CNMI voter registration list and not just from Saipan. The defense argued that, in small communities like the CNMI, it is easy for jurors to be swayed by extrajudicial information and personal considerations.

"This is especially so for Gov. Torres. Gov. Torres was elected by a majority of voters from across the

CNMI in 2014 and 2018. As governor of the CNMI, Gov. Torres deals with all the islands. The policies he makes also apply to every island. Furthermore, some of the trips referenced in this case deal with trips to the other islands. Because Gov. Torres' work deals directly with all of the islands, it is difficult for the members of the small-knit communities not to have an opinion of the governor. To exacerbate this issue, Gov. Torres' recent impeachment and resulting lawsuits, the criminal charges recently filed against him, and all of the resulting publicity, have made it nearly impossible for all the CNMI voters to come up with an unbiased opinion of him. This may make it difficult to find a sufficient number of unbiased jurors," the defense stated.

Because of this, Torres' team of lawyers argued that the most practical method of ensuring a sufficient-

ly large jury pool is to draw jurors from all the islands and not just from Saipan.

"The need for judicial economy weighs in favor of having a larger jury pool," stated the defense.

Torres has been charged by the CNMI Office of the Attorney General with 12 counts of misconduct in public office and one count of theft relating to the issuance of airline tickets for business class, first class, or other premium class travel for himself and/or first lady Diann T. Torres.

The complaint also included theft charges related to the former governor's travel expenses amounting to \$20,000 between April 2018 and May 30, 2019, using public funds.

The case likewise alleged one count of contempt for failure to appear in compliance with a legislative subpoena.

Torres has denied the charges.

GUAM

From Page 1

away from the China tourism market, among other topics.

Nicholson said in an interview shortly after that the meeting sought to strengthen the military's partnership with the CNMI and a chance to talk with Palacios and his staff about some of the upcoming exercises that will be taking place this summer.

He said some of the exercises will take place in and around the CNMI, so they want to make sure that the governor was fully aware of these plans.

The commander said they also wanted to make sure to have their responses ready in case Palacios has questions about those exercises.

"Normally a lot of these take place at a lower level between our folks that run the range and the Bureau of Military Affairs here in CNMI. But this is the first large exercise season with Palacios as the governor," Nicholson said.

He said they want Palacios to understand what's going on, being the chief executive of the CNMI, and to have a chance to ask questions.

Nicholson said the other main purpose of their meeting is to just give Palacios a better overview of what the military is doing in the region and have a better understanding of how their forces in Guam can springboard from there to go to other places and come to the CNMI in defense of the CNMI, if necessary.

In response to questions about military tourism, Nicholson said Palacios told him that he would like to see more military training in the CNMI because any time that they come to the CNMI, whether it is on Saipan, Tinian, or Rota, cash is injected into the local economy.

"We always need the support of the local economy when we are operating, or training in a location," he said.

Palacios recently disclosed that the administration has started developing military tourism, given the recent relocation of over 5,000 military personnel from Japan to Guam.

Palacios said if the CNMI succeeds in developing military tourism, the administration may be open to incentivizing flights from Guam to Saipan.

Nicholson said Palacios asked if they can have some more ship visits Saipan. "We are looking at that and I can't give you the specifics but I think we've got some things lined up here not too far in the future where we can have ship visits to Saipan," Nicholson said.

He said one of the things that he shared with Palacios is that they have a significant military population in Guam and that they have been on a campaign to encourage that population to tour the region. Nicholson said Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are some of the places where they encourage military members and their families to tour.

Early this year, he noted, they held a large fair in the CNMI—what they call Morale Welfare and Recreation Fair—where they had different representatives of the tourism industry in the CNMI go to that fair and display the things the military and their families can do in the CNMI.

"We are trying to encourage tourism from within the military ranks, for their family members because there's a lot of great stuff to do here," Nicholson said.

First of all, they all know about the significant and the rich history of this region, he said, but there's also some world-class golf and some phenomenal resorts here.

"There's great water parks for the kids, there's unbelievable scuba diving and snorkeling. All of these things are great and we want to encourage our military members and family to take advantage of it because they are here in the region," Nicholson said.

CPA

From Page 1

tourism industry away from its reliance on the China market.

According to King-Hinds, CPA's job is merely to assess fiscal impacts this policy may have on both CPA and the CNMI as a whole.

"CPA takes no position with regards to the pivot. Given what that particular market share represents in as far as arrivals, our job is to assess that policy's fiscal impact on our budget and, more importantly, our operations," she said.

She does concede that, with the pivot, CPA believes there'll be a cascading economic effect and CPA is doing all it can in its power to brace for such an impact.

"There's a cascading economic effect, which makes fiscal recovery questionable and we are doing everything we can to find alternative sources of funding, with the intent to remediate and brace for this impact," she said.

"These past couple of years, we have relied on federal funds to get us through until we return to pre-pandemic levels in as far as arrivals. Those funds will be exhausted [by] the end of this fiscal year, [which is Sept. 30, 2023]. Rates and fees will go up come October because we have to ensure that CPA is self-sustainable without the additional external support. This means it's going to be expensive to come here. This will likely impact our marketability as a destination," King-Hinds further explained.

As for the recent progress made by the administration in developing military tourism, King-Hinds said this has been in the works for a while now and, as far as CPA's position is on this new market, CPA is more focused on the number of arrivals the new market brings in.

However, based on the 2020 Census, King-Hinds said the military market alone would not be able to bring the CNMI back to 2017 levels when the CNMI was completely self-sustainable.

"The idea of military tourism is not new. It has been a topic of discussion and a request to the Department of Defense from the previous administration. CPA doesn't care where tourists come from. What we are focused on is the number of arrivals, which translates to revenues," King-Hinds said.

"According to the 2020 Census, there's approximately 22,000 military personnel and dependents. Even if all these people were to travel to the CNMI, it will not bring us to level that we need to be at. To be sustainable, we need to get back to 2017 levels when we had over 653,000 total arrivals," she added.

Palacios announced last month his intent to pivot the CNMI away from its reliance on China and to focus on developing military tourism. Palacios has been meeting with Joint Region Marianas representatives to bring more military personnel to Saipan either through possible staycation packages or through more military trainings.

KILILI

From Page 3

and \$3.4 million to deal with emerging contaminants.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provides \$5 billion in five years to address emerging contaminants like per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances in drinking water. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

US boosts anti-China Pacific push with embassy in Vanuatu

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Biden administration said Friday that the U.S. will open an embassy in the South Pacific island nation of Vanuatu in its latest move to blunt China's increasing influence in the Indo-Pacific.

The new embassy in Port Vila will be the fifth diplomatic mission that the U.S. has either opened or announced that it will build in the region over the past three years as it seeks to confront what it sees as a threat or challenge from China.

"Consistent with the U.S. Indo-Pacific strategy, a permanent diplomatic presence in Vanuatu would allow the U.S. government to deepen relationships with Vanuatu

officials and society," the State Department said in a statement.

"Establishing U.S. Embassy Port Vila would facilitate areas of potential bilateral coopera-

tion and development assistance, including efforts to tackle the climate crisis," it said.

A low-lying island nation of some 300,000 people, Vanuatu last year declared a climate

emergency as it faces moving dozens of villages to higher ground. Vanuatu, as one of the countries most immediately threatened, also is among the most outspoken and active is-



WOMEN'S MONTH MEET-AND-MINGLE

A group of panelists composed of female judges, lawyers, and other members of the local and federal judiciaries speak at the first Women's Month Meet-And-Mingle last March 21, 2022. The pan included attorney Janet H. King, U.S. Probation officer Juanette F. David-Atalig, Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, magistrate judge/clerk of court Heather L. Kennedy, CNMI Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio, and assistant U.S. Attorney Ashley Kost. The panelists shared their experiences and insights as women working in the legal profession.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

UOG conference to feature Guam human rights lawyer and clean energy/Tetris entrepreneur

The University of Guam Conference on Island Sustainability returns to the Hyatt Regency Guam from April 12 to 15 to feature island innovations and strategies that will collectively move Guam toward a sustainable future.



Aguon

Pre-conference events for the 14th annual conference, including the Guam Energy Transition Symposium and Submerged Lands Partnership, start on April 10. As co-chairs of the conference, UOG president Thomas W. Krise and Guam Gov. Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero will present the theme "Rediscover the Depths of Our Island Abundance."

This year's keynote speakers are Hawai'i and New York-based entrepreneur Henk Rogers and international human rights lawyer Julian Aguan. Rogers is known for his environmental advocacy work and success in pushing for the adoption of Hawai'i's mandate for 100% renewable energy by 2045. As founder of the Blue Planet Alliance, Rogers is inspiring the rest of the world to do the same.

The renewable energy visionary is also known for bringing the game Tetris to a wider audience. The recently released thriller film "Tetris" on Apple TV+ stars Taron Egerton who portrays Rogers during his quest to secure the rights to the game in the former Soviet Union. Rogers is using this elevated global attention to further climate change action and create a sustainable global future.

Aguon is the founder of Blue Ocean Law, a progressive firm that works at the intersection of indigenous rights and environmental justice. He serves as lead counsel to the Republic of Vanuatu, which

is spearheading the global campaign to pursue an advisory opinion on climate change from the International Court of Justice. He is the author of *No Country for Eight-Spot Butterflies* and was a finalist for the 2022 Pulitzer Prize for Commentary.

Other featured speakers include:

■ Dr. Nicole Yamase, the first Micronesian and Pacific Islander to descend to the Challenger Deep in the Marianas Trench

■ Kate Brown, executive director of the Global Island Partnership

■ Christine Landmeier, director of Environmental Sustainability at United Airlines

■ Omar Degan, principal of DO Architecture Group that specializes in sustainability and emergency architecture

■ Basil Ottley, director of Policy for the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs

■ Landisang Kotaro, chief of staff to the President of Palau.

Since 2010, UOG has gathered islanders and their allies each year to share research and spark action on sustainability.

Director Austin Shelton of the UOG Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant programs hopes this year's conference will uncover new perspectives.

"Islands are often misjudged as isolated, limited, or vulnerable. This year, we swim beyond the scarcity of the shallows, dive deeper, and rediscover abundance. We will see examples in food production, natural resource discovery and management, and shifting to a circular economy," Shelton said.

At the conference, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in discussions, share ideas, and learn from

experts and thought leaders in their respective fields. Keynote and breakout sessions will emphasize the importance of building multi-sectoral partnerships as well as effective and innovative solutions for sustainable development, green economy, food security, energy transition, climate change, human society, youth empowerment, and other relevant subjects.

The conference attracts a diverse audience, including attendees from academia, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and private businesses worldwide.

Thousands of participants represented more than 80 countries, states, and territories

at the previous years' hybrid conferences.

The main conference will begin on Wednesday, April 12, with the Guam Green Growth Biannual Meeting. The community is invited to the opening. This year's conference will also include conversations on sustainability as part of the "CIS SEED Talks: Ideas Worth Cultivating" series. Similar to TED talks, CIS SEED Talks are short, powerful talks of 15 minutes or less designed to grow ideas on a variety of topics.

Registration is available for participants to join from April 13-15. Special rates are available for Guam and Micronesia residents, students, and teachers.

For more information on in-person or online/virtual sessions: Visit uog.edu/cis2023/ registration. (PR)



Rogers

lands in demanding greater effort by other countries to cut climate-wrecking pollution from burning coal, oil and natural gas.

This week, Prime Minister Ishmael Kalsakau's government spearheaded passage of a U.N. resolution demanding that the U.N.'s high court strengthen requirements on countries to slow the climate's warming and deal with the impact.

That announcement follows a high-level visit to Vanuatu and other Pacific islands led by the White House's top Asia-Pacific coordinator, Kurt

Campbell. The U.S. is currently represented in Vanuatu by the American ambassador in New Guinea.

The U.S. recently opened an embassy in the Solomon Islands and will soon open one in the Maldives. Other embassies to be opened include in Tonga and Kiribati.

The administration has also moved to shore up existing close ties with the Marshall Islands, Micronesia and Palau by extending agreements with those Pacific nations that give them billions of dollars in aid in return for military and other basing rights.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

4.9-magnitude quake in Pagan region

At 5:12pm on April 7 2023, a report of a 4.9-magnitude earthquake occurred at 18.714°N 145.768°E in the Pagan region of the Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, please contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at (670) 237-8000. (PR)

Youth Congress organizational session on April 15

The first day, organizational session of the 19th CNMI Youth Congress is scheduled for Saturday, April 15, 2023 at 10am in the House of Representatives' chamber. (PR)

GCC spring College Assembly today

Guam Community College will be holding its spring 2023 College Assembly to provide professional development training for all faculty, staff and administrators today, April 10, 2023, from 8am to 4pm. The campus will be closed during this time. Post-secondary classes will resume as scheduled beginning at 4pm.

For more information, contact John Dela Rosa, GCC assistant director of Communications & Promotions, at 671-735-5638 (office), 671-482-4320 (cell), or john.delarosa@guamcc.edu. (PR)

GCC board meeting on Friday

The Guam Community College board of trustees will hold its monthly board meeting on Friday, April 14, 2023, at noon at Guam Community College in Room 112, Learning Resource Center (GCC Library), Building 4000. All attendees are encouraged to wear a mask on the GCC campus.

Individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services should contact (671)735-5641 Ext. 5594/5597. (PR)



GUAM & COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WEBEX MEETING APRIL 11, 2023

U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs

Honolulu Regional Office- Public Contact Team

Will host a Virtual Benefits Workshop for Veterans, Family Members, Surviving Spouses, and Community Providers

on

TUESDAY APRIL 11, 2023

From


4PM-6PM (GUAM & CNMI LOCAL TIME)

To participate please join us in Cisco Webex by clicking or copying and pasting the below links into your browser:

<https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?MTID=m56a294b9ea61b4d414a13401f0aa45fc>

You can join via Computer, Phone Audio (1-404-397-1596, Access Code:27656496834##), or Webex Mobile App. Meeting Password: sbRPepT943

Benefits Workshop Topics:
 Compensation, Service Connection, Pension, Homeless, COD, MST, Women Veterans, Education & Training, Veteran Readiness & Employment, PACT Act, Home Loan Guaranty, DIC, Survivors' Pension, & Burial and Plot Internment Allowance



DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS AND DIVERSE PLANNING

Faces of Forces Micronesia: Lt. Chelsea Garcia

Forces Micronesia operations are focused on benefitting the nation and our partners by supporting regional stability and prosperity throughout Oceania, mainly using the Guam-based fast response cutters. This regional effort, in turn, supports the National Strategy in the Pacific. We are one Oceania and, despite vast distances, very interconnected. These operations are successful because of the professionals who plan and execute joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational operations.

Lt. Chelsea Garcia is our lead cutter deployment planner here in Guam. Her extensive Coast Guard background, first as an enlisted operations specialist and then as a junior officer in the response field, prepared her well for the role. Her early life experience is multicultural, as her mother is indigenous from the Arapaho Tribe, born in Riverton, Wyoming.

“She was adopted, her mother is full Arapaho, and she recently found her biological father through DNA testing. He is Mexican and Spanish, and we are excited to learn more about him,” said Garcia.

Originally from Longview, Texas, Garcia attended college on a soccer scholarship with the support of her father, who managed the groundskeeping for the campus. Following her first year of studies, it became apparent she was not passionate about her studies. Her father, who served four years in the Air Force, recommended the military. She contacted the Air Force and the Coast Guard recruiters, and you can guess who called back first.

Garcia has a passion for communication, organization, and action. Despite an early ambition to be an FBI agent, after joining in 2003, she found a fit in the command center environment. She thrived as an operations specialist as the rate came online and matured.

One of the biggest challenges encountered during her two decades of service has been raising a family and being married member-to-member.

“While that shared experi-



Garcia

ence is valuable, we’ve had a lot of help from family and friends over the years. Guam has been a special challenge so far removed from my extended family, but the opportunities here have been incredible. The network you build is so important, and so is asking for help when needed,” said Garcia.

Her spouse is a health services technician. Being able to stay co-located came with a compromise. While she was unopposed to going to a ship, and sea time is a requirement for advancement to Chief as an OS, things never aligned. Several mentors encouraged her to consider Officer Candidate School. She was selected, and when she graduated, she went to an incident management billet in response at Sector Long Island Sound.

Once again thriving, she built her skills by learning about pollution response, attending secondary training, and gaining qualifications as a pollution responder and federal on-scene coordinator

while remaining a committed spouse and raising two sons and one daughter. Toward the end of that tour, she received an extension to align her tour with her spouse, and that extension came with the concession she would move from her beloved pollution response to enforcement.

“Many of my plans came to fruition, but not on their original timelines. It’s almost funny that here I am 20 years later, a federal law enforcement officer, similar to my original intention of joining the FBI and being a field agent.”

Garcia is known among her colleagues for her adaptability and willingness to “support the plan,” but that’s not to say she won’t raise essential concerns and advocate for the people who the planning and operations affect.

“In the back of my mind, I always think would I want to be like that person, or would I want to work for that person again? I agree with the Coast Guardsman’s Manual when it discusses positional and personal power, ‘Personal power is gained from your subordinates and is based on their respect for you as a person. Personal power encourages your people to give you their commitment and trust because of your personal behavior towards them. Personal power encourages your followers to perform tasks not because they have to but because they want to.’”

Indeed, as a planner for the FRCs deployments, she is usually first in the room to begin considering second and third-order effects of planning decisions to mitigate unnecessary stress on operational crews. She’s also a boarding

officer and the unit’s assistant command security officer, working across many divisions at the unit to the benefit and safety of all.

This theme of looking out for others and consistent progress permeates everything she does and likely stems from her upbringing. “To put it plainly, my family was working class. My dad mowed lawns, and my mom cleaned houses. I think it influenced me with a good work ethic. It continues to influence me because we work for the working class. We must remember the importance of maintaining the public’s trust in everything we do,” said Garcia.

This philosophy also reflects in her family-friendly movie picks—*Zootopia* and *Tangled*—which showcase strong, driven, and adaptable characters unwilling to accept the status quo as gospel when improvement benefiting the team is possible. Special nod to Judy Hopps, the first rabbit on the police force, appealing to that enforcement officer role and a little sarcastic humor.

As we continue to project a persistent presence and strengthen relationships in Oceania and the Indo-Pacific, officers like Chelsea Garcia, who not only have a mission and regional fluency but are also attuned to the needs of and impacts on the crews in the field, are vital. The U.S. Coast Guard continues to evolve our strategy for supporting our partners. The team we have in place at Forces Micronesia Sector Guam makes a conscious effort daily to embody the unit vision of People Fundamentally, Unit Resolutely, and Mission Relentlessly. *(USCG)*

USCIS updates policy on gender markers

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is updating policy guidance in the USCIS Policy Manual to clarify that, effective immediately, USCIS will accept the self-identified gender marker for individuals requesting immigration benefits. The gender marker they select does not need to match the gender marker indicated on their supporting documentation.

The update also clarifies that people requesting benefits do not need to submit proof of their gender identity when submitting a request to change their gender marker, except for those submitting Form N-565, Application for Replacement Naturalization/Citizenship Document. The guidance in this Policy Manual section does not currently apply to Form N-565, and individuals submitting this form must continue to follow the form instructions.

Benefit requestors seek-


ing to change their gender marker after their initial filing should refer to the Updating or Correcting Your Documents webpage. Currently, the only gender markers available are “Male” (M) or “Female” (F). The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is working on options to include an additional gender marker (“X”) for another or unspecified gender identity. USCIS will update its forms and the Policy Manual accordingly.

In April 2021, DHS published a Request for Public Input seeking the public’s feedback on barriers to USCIS benefits and services. Responses to this request indicated that the evidentiary requirements associated with gender marker changes created barriers for individuals requesting immigration benefits. Through subsequent listening sessions with DHS, stakeholders have further highlighted how this policy


change will remove barriers and reduce burdens for applicants and petitioners, in accordance with President Joe Biden’s Executive Order 14012, Restoring Faith in Our Legal Immigration Systems and Strengthening Integration and Inclusion Efforts for New Americans.

In addition, this furthers DHS efforts under Executive Order 13988, Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation, and Executive Order 14091, Further Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government.

The new guidance can be found in the USCIS Policy Manual. Visit the Policy Manual Feedback page to comment on this update. USCIS welcomes feedback on this guidance and will consider any comments received in future updates. *(USCIS)*



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com



AMENDED NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit bid proposals and their qualifications for the **PORT OF SAIPAN BERTH 103 REPAIRS, Project No. CPA-SS-001-17**, for the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: ***"PORT OF SAIPAN BERTH 103 REPAIRS, CPA-SS-001-17"*** and submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. (CHST), FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 2023**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing.

The Project, in general, consists of Berth 103 Cavity Repairs including all associated work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans, specifications and the bid schedule, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS (\$200.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable unless this notice to bidders is cancelled. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order, made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bidders should notify CPA's point of contact mentioned below immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD and are to verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings.

A pre-bid conference will be held at CPA's Capt. George Fleming Memorial Building Conference Room at the Port of Saipan, located in Lower Base on the island of Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), at **10:00 A.M. (CHST), FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2023**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Attendance is not mandatory. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date; with the exception of extension requests which have no deadline. Responses to all questions and requests for information will be provided to all bidders who purchased a DVD and attended the pre-bid conference.

Bidders shall use the bid schedule form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY (420) calendar days**. Liquidated damages in the amount of **FIVE HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS PER CALENDAR DAY (\$500.00)** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or mis-enter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-26 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all local and Federal requirements under this procurement.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: March 20, 2023

Wet weather doesn't stop Good Friday trekkers

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Last Friday's terrible weather was no match to the devotion of hundreds who pushed ahead with the CNMI's annual Good Friday tradition and gathered early on April 7, 2023 for the arduous trek up Saipan's highest point, Mount Tapochau.

This time, though, devotees who brought a large wooden cross to the mountain's peak did not to press ahead with installing the cross at the top, out of an abundance of caution and to ensure everyone's safety amid the wet and slippery conditions.

As per tradition, a Catholic church on Saipan had a turn in providing the wooden cross for the event, with several individuals carrying the cross up the mountain in symbolism and to commemorate the historic walk of Jesus Christ to His crucifixion. This year, the Catholic parish of San Roque, led by Fr. Sid Ogomoro, provided the cross and benediction for the trek.

With the bad weather blanketing the mountain in a thick fog and cold rain showers, Mt. Tapochau's dusty road quickly turned into a challenging and slippery mud mess for trekkers, especially for those carrying the large cross.

But despite the weather, devotion proved strong, and many, including families with small children, pushed through. Those carrying the cross reached the peak around 6:30am, an hour after its arrival at the base of the trail.

As a safety precaution, the cross was not raised at that time due to the harsh weather conditions, but Ogomoro was able to lead those gathered in a blessing. He later said he believes that the carrying of the cross itself to the mountain's peak is good penance and that, although some individuals came for the exercise, many also make the trek for their spiritual wellbeing.

"The cross is a living reminder for us of what happened on Good Friday. ...We'll continue to pray because the world now is kind of chaotic, so a part of our journey throughout this Lent season is to continue to pray, and I'm sure a lot of people have done that..." he said.

Many individuals echoed the same sentiments. Saipan residents JoeAnn Ilemeilam, Kierah Lee, and Maile Lomongo shared that the trek was not only an enjoyable experience but also a time to spiritually reflect on what Christ went through. "I see it in a way that we kind of get



A large wooden cross prepared by the Catholic parish of San Roque is brought up Mt. Tapochau by devotees last Good Friday.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

to experience what He went through..." said Lomongo.

Lean Espiritu Santo from Kagman noted that her trek "...really got me to think about things like God and stuff."

One of those who carried the cross was Rep. Angelo Camacho and he described the journey as a "blessing and honor" and shares that he believes this tradition will continue for many years to come. "As a matter of fact, this is the first time I took both of my daughters out and they really enjoyed it and I encourage all parents to do the same just to kind of keep the faith strong," he added.

Rep. John Sablan said that he and his family had participated in this tradition for over 40 years and each is a time when they reflect on the passion of Christ and look forward for Easter. "I'm very happy that, despite the rainy weather, we still have a lot of people walking up Mt. Ta-

pochau and showing their devotion...and so I wish them the best," he stated.

As per past practice, some organizations were handing out food and water to the

trekkers. Among them was Kagman resident Emily Rose Santos-Bernardo, who said her parents and their friends had made a promise to each other that they would feed



Devotees pose for a commemorative photo with the wooden cross at the base of Mt. Tapochau last Good Friday.

CHRYSTAL MARINO



Despite the terrible weather hundreds of individuals showed their devotion and perseverance while making the trek up Mt. Tapochau last Good Friday.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JAMES DEAN :
KALLAS : FCD-DI
Petitioner, : CIVIL ACTION NO.
vs. : 23-0118
KATHERINE :
KAYE CONDE : SUMMONS FOR
DELOS REYES : PUBLICATION
Respondent, :

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:
KATHERINE KAYE CONDE DELOS REYES
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED
to file any answer you wish to make to the
Complaint, a copy of which is on file with
the Court, within thirty (30) days after
service of the Summons upon you, and to
deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the
Petitioner whose address is P.O. BOX
500094 SAIPAN, MP 96950 as soon as
practical after filling your answer or
sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed
with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe,
Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for
you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk
of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not
necessary for you to appear personally
until further notice. If you fail to file and
answer in accordance with this Summons,
Judgement by Default may be taken
against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 27th day of March, 2023.

/s/
Clerk of Court

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055 SAIPAN MP 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMI-PORTS.COM



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

**SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF TYPHOON RESISTANT
ACCORDION ALUMINUM SHUTTERS AT THE ARFF BUILDING
BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
ROTA, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-008-23**

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to supply and install typhoon resistant accordion aluminum shutters at the ARFF Building, Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, Rota, CNMI. The Scope of Work and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning **March 20, 2023**, upon payment of \$100.00 in cash, cashier's check, credit card or certified check to the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport.

Proposals will be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport no later than **2:00 P.M. CHST, April 19, 2023**. Proposals received after the date/time indicated above will not be opened and will be returned to the Proposer.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than **ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount**. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

EDWARD B. MENDIOLA
Deputy Executive Director

Date: _____

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 70Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Tennessee Republicans' appalling assault on speech and freedom

The expulsion of two Tennessee lawmakers for daring to speak out for gun control is a shocking assault on democracy and speech—in an era in which assaults on democracy and speech are becoming all too routine.

The majority Republican Tennessee House on Thursday ousted Democrats Justin Jones of Nashville and Justin J. Pearson of Memphis, and very nearly removed Democrat Gloria Johnson of Knoxville, ostensibly for breaching decorum the day after the horrific killing of three 9-year-olds and three adults at a Nashville school on March 29.

The three lawmakers' offense—taking the podium without first being recognized, and riling up anti-gun protesters in the gallery—did indeed breach House rules, but a simple reprimand would have sufficed. Bouncing Jones and Pearson from office and disenfranchising their many thousands of constituents is a response wildly out of proportion to the conduct.

That's especially the case under these circumstances, when Tennesseans demanding the most modest of controls on deadly weapons are met with a wall of indifference among the majority Republicans who shrug at gun deaths and insist that school shootings and slain students and staff are the necessary and peculiarly American price of freedom. They have every right to hold that view, however wrong-headed, just as they have the right to harbor destructive intolerance of the views of others.

But they have no right to silence their opponents, Nashville, Memphis and Knoxville voters, and the people they elect to represent them. Not in a functioning democracy that thrives on speech and debate.

While rejecting life-saving controls on deadly weapons, Republicans nationwide have purported to stand strong for free expression. GOP leaders pretend to recoil in horror at so-called cancel culture—the supposed penchant of liberals and Democrats to shut down any who disagree with their political or social positions.

Yet it has been Republicans, in the years of the post-Trump presidency, who are perfecting the dark art of silencing Americans—especially those who deign to exercise their right to express opinions and choose officials and policies that represent their values.

For example, Republican lawmakers in Pennsylvania tried to impeach Larry Krasner, the twice-elected Democratic district attorney in Philadelphia, because they distrust or disrespect voters in their state's largest city. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis removed Democratic District Attorney Andrew Warren of Tampa for similar reasons. The Republican majority in the Mississippi legislature moved to take over the courts, the police and the prosecution in their capital city, Jackson.

Republican majorities are making similar attacks on urban Democratic voters in many states, robbing them of their choices and their voices. Now the Tennessee House has fol-

See TENNESSEEn Page 9



In Tennessee, expelled lawmakers remind a nation what political bravery looks like

The churn of local politics rarely makes national news unless the outlet happens to be C-SPAN, but headlines, history and careers were made during proceedings at Tennessee's State Capitol on Thursday when a GOP supermajority voted to expel two of three Democratic legislators for their participation in a gun control rally.

In a brazen act of political retribution, Democratic Reps. Justin Jones, Gloria Johnson and Justin Pearson were accused of "violating decorum rules" for their part in a protest last week on the House floor following a mass shooting at a private school in Nashville where six people—including three 9-year-olds—were slain. Jones and Pearson, who are Black, were expelled by the Republican legislators. Johnson, who is White, was not. And it was all caught on live feeds from the chamber and local news outlets.

The vote was stunning, even now, when defying the rule of law is practically a badge of honor among many right-wing leaders. The ousting was so brazen it could have been pulled from another era, before social media or smartphone cameras, when decisions made in smoke-filled rooms shaped politics and the authoritarian impulses of local officials could be more easily hidden from the rest of the country.

By plowing ahead like no one was watching but a handful of colleagues and young protesters, the architects of the expulsion unwittingly engineered a national inflection point in the fight over gun control, systemic racism and the GOP's troubling embrace of dictatorial governance. And overnight, Jones and Pearson became rock stars among the Democratic Party and legions of voiceless young people, a galvanizing force for solutions to the problem of gun violence that have had plenty of support in polls but few singular voices to coalesce into a broader movement.

Visually, and in their oratorical skills, both men invoked the passion and unifying power of civil rights-era leaders while speaking to the continued inequity and political stalemates of the 21st century. At once classic and fresh, their choice of clothing alluded to the cuts of the 1960s, which only added to its present-day edge, and they spoke with a conviction that echoed the poetic ferocity of Martin Luther King Jr., the steadfast conviction of Malcolm X and the urgency of their own generation, which has come of age in arguably one of the most contentious periods in U.S. history.

"What we see today is a lynch mob assembled not to lynch me but our democratic process," said Jones, dressed in a white suit and speaking in a measured tone from the chamber podium Thursday before he was voted out. "This is your attempt to expel the voices of the people from the

By **LORRAINE ALI**

Los Angeles Times

Lorraine Ali is television critic of the Los Angeles Times.



people's house. It will not be successful. Your overreaction, your flexing of false power has awakened a generation of people who will let you know that your time is up.... The world is watching." Onlookers in the chamber yelled "Shame!" as the majority voted to expel Jones.

Across social media platforms and cable news channels, millions, including many far from Tennessee, witnessed Jones' speech and the impassioned words from Pearson that followed: "You are seeking to expel District 86's representation from this House in a country that was built on a protest," Pearson said. "You, who celebrate July 4, 1776, pop fireworks and eat hot dogs, you say to protest is wrong, because you spoke out of turn. Because you spoke up for people who are marginalized. You spoke up for children who won't ever be able to speak again. You spoke up for parents who don't want to live in fear, you spoke up for Larry Thorn, who was murdered by gun violence. You spoke up for people that we don't want to care about."

Jones, Pearson and Johnson were accused of violating decorum because they used a bullhorn on the chamber floor during the protest last week. They reportedly led the protest when they hadn't been recognized to speak under House rules.

How remarkable is their expulsion? Up until Thursday, according to the Tennessean newspaper, the state House had only expelled two members since Reconstruction, and they had been accused of sexual misconduct and bribery, respectively. Which made it all the more clear that Republican legislators, who appeared largely white and male in the footage from the floor, were sending a message to everyone else: Stay in your place.

Jones, Pearson and Johnson had their own clear, interracial and intergenerational message in return as they walked through the Capitol, and into the national media spotlight, holding their hands in the air: We will not stand for the politics of exclusion and retribution, and neither should you.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

For McCarthy and Taiwan's leader, visit marks historic first

By LISA MASCARO

AP CONGRESSIONAL

WASHINGTON (AP)—The moment was historic—a U.S. House speaker meeting Wednesday with the president of Taiwan for a rare visit on American soil, a high-profile encounter designed to boost support for the island government but already drawing blowback from an enraged China.

For Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen the meeting with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in California was the most sensitive stop on her transit through the U.S. and Central America, a whirlwind diplomatic mission that is delicate, secretive and politically fraught.

But for the newly elected House speaker it would signal the start of his foray into foreign affairs. The Republican leader has focused more on domestic politics at home than international concerns abroad. Outspoken, even bellicose, against China, McCarthy chose to send a more measured and diplomatic nod of support to Taiwan with the meeting.

"It's a very good debut," said Newt Gingrich, the Republican former speaker who led a delegation to Taiwan decades ago and advises McCarthy.

"I think it's a useful thing to communicate to a country—that's under enormous pressure—that they have real allies," Gingrich said ahead of the meeting. The Taiwanese, he said, will "see it as a morale boost."

The private meeting between Tsai and McCarthy came against the very public backdrop of heightened U.S. focus on China over its actions at home and abroad, particularly China's potential aggression enforcing its claims over the island of Taiwan.

The Biden administration is watching China's interactions with Russia vis-a-vis the war in Ukraine, while Congress is probing China over a host of issues, from the Chinese spy balloon that floated over North America earlier this year to the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic to Chinese social media giant TikTok's data privacy practices.

The United States broke off official ties with Taiwan in 1979, when it formally established diplomatic relations with the Beijing government. While the U.S. acknowledges the "one-China" policy in which Beijing lays claim to the island of Taiwan as territory, the U.S. does not endorse China's claim to the island and remains Taiwan's key provider of military and defense assistance.

The session with McCarthy, who as House speaker is second in line of succession to the president, was Tsai's most high-level U.S. visit during her visit, which also included a stop in New York last week. At that time, she met Friday with

three U.S. senators—Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska, and Mark Kelly, D-Ariz., all members of the Senate Armed Services Committee -- and with House Democratic leader Rep. Hakeem Jeffries.

Details on the event Wednesday, which included a bipartisan showing of Republican and Democratic lawmakers, had been closely held, a reminder of the pressures on her island government under the watchful eye of China.

It was the first known visit between a House speaker and a Taiwan president on American territory since the U.S. broke off formal diplomatic relations with Taiwan, experts said.

"It's particularly an opportunity to demonstrate how strong the relationship with the United States is," said Bonnie S. Glaser, the managing director of the Indo-Pacific program at the German Marshall Fund.

"Of course, Congress is part of that," she said. Because the lack of formal diplomatic relations greatly limits any interaction between Taiwan and U.S. leaders, "it becomes even more important that they have meetings with members of Congress."

The Chinese government has expressed its displeasure ahead of Tsai's meeting with McCarthy, and threatened countermeasures over any contact with the House speaker.

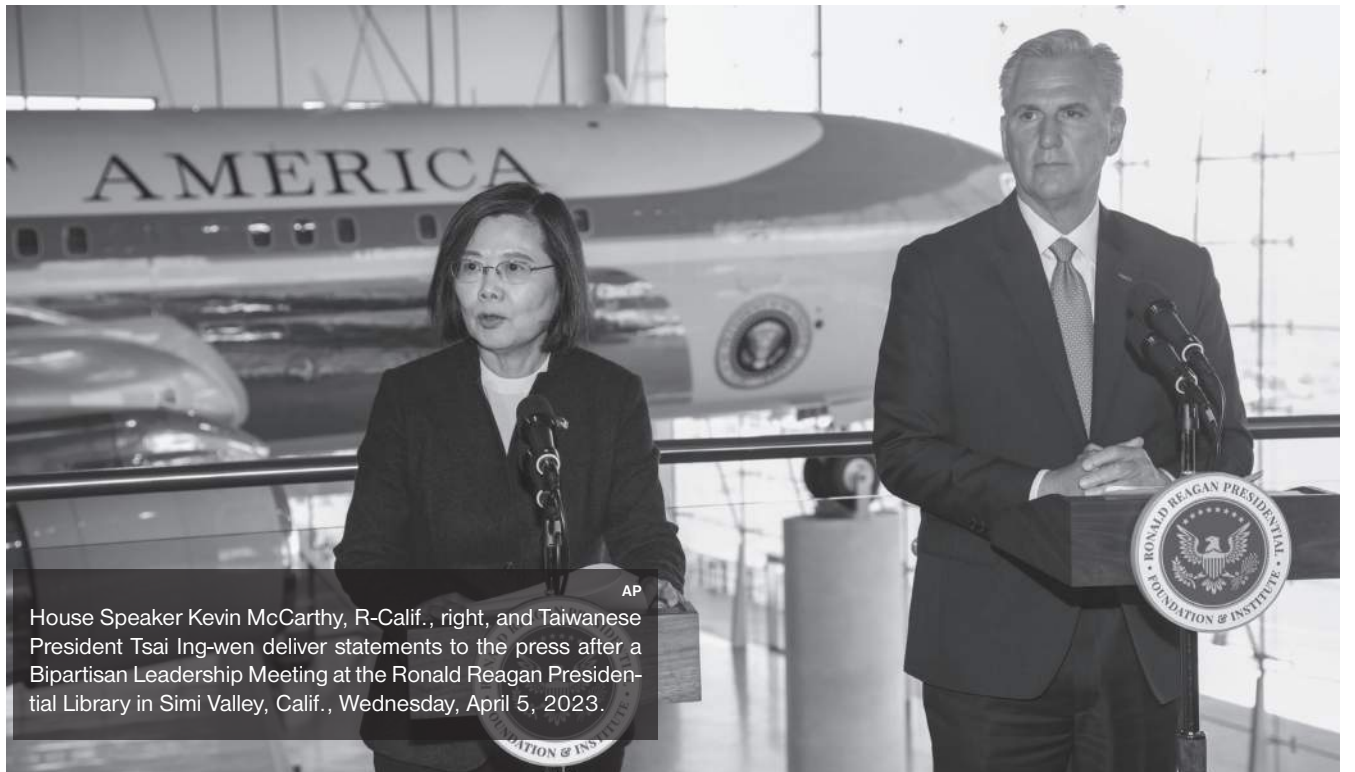
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Tuesday it will follow the developments and "resolutely defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Chinese state media announced Wednesday morning that vessels have started conducting a joint patrol and inspection operation in the central and northern waters of the Taiwan Strait. Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense said it had also tracked the People's Liberation Army's Shandong aircraft carrier passing through the Bashi Strait, to Taiwan's southeast.

McCarthy, a sandwich shop operator in Bakersfield, California, before working as a congressional aide and being elected to Congress, is not known for vast foreign policy experience.

Unlike Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, who used her speaker's gavel as a calling card to bring U.S. influence and aid around the globe, McCarthy is focusing his speakership more inward on the domestic needs of Americans.

While McCarthy has led congressional delegation trips abroad—to Israel, for example, and to Normandy, France, to mark the anniversary of the end of World War II—and had expressed interest in visiting Taiwan, he had not yet made plans for his own trip.



AP
House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., right, and Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen deliver statements to the press after a Bipartisan Leadership Meeting at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, Calif., Wednesday, April 5, 2023.

TENNESSEE

From Page 8

lowed the same template, shutting down members elected by their state's largest and most liberal cities.

It cannot escape notice that Jones and Pearson are both Black. Their removal recalls the ugly post-Civil War era in which Black candidates and voters were systematically disqualified from participating in Tennessee government. The ouster ill befits a state whose heritage includes the early and peaceful desegregation of Nashville, which showed the way for other cities across the South.

Beyond the racial dimension, it has sadly become the Republican norm to stifle debate. Don't say gay, don't say gun control, don't say racism, don't let kids read the "wrong" books or be read to by the "wrong" people, don't permit children to learn about their bodies or their rights.

A government in which the majority can silence those with competing views is in serious trouble. One that goes further and actually expels those with competing views is dangerously close to becoming anti-democratic and anti-liberty.

The rules of democratic engagement are constantly shifting, and Americans of goodwill may have genuine concerns about minor infractions of the sort committed by the so-called Tennessee Three. Especially in this era of sharp political division, one of the things holding us together is respect for rules of conduct. But grabbing the podium out of turn and participating in a raucous but clearly peaceful protest is hardly a Jan. 6-like assault on the Capitol. No member of the Tennessee House has ever before been expelled merely for breaking rules of decorum.

The Tennessee House majority's action has taken the

nation further down the wrong road. There's still time to turn around. For now.

©2023 Los Angeles Times

Stand united on Taiwan: House Speaker Kevin McCarthy does it right in leading bipartisan meeting with President Tsai Ing-wen

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, who doesn't always speak for America, did so with moral clarity when he met visiting Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen this week along with a bipartisan group including the House's No. 3 Democrat, Pete Aguilar, at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, and praised "a successful democracy, thriving economy, and global leader in health and science." Those words could've been spoken by former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, McCarthy's longtime partisan combatant (and fellow Californian). Both know that Taiwan is so many things mainland China is not, chief among them a stalwart U.S. ally and a place where genuine freedom thrives.

These days, the unified support of the United States is crucial for the Asian island nation (population: 24 million, 169,000 active military personnel), as China (population: 1.4 billion, 2 million active military personnel) breathes down its neck with ever more heat. Beijing, refusing to acknowledge Taiwan's independence, wants it "unified" with the mainland. Translation: Furthest-thing-from-democratic China wants to take over its smaller, democratic neighbor, like Russia is trying to do to Ukraine.

So it was little surprise to hear the harrumphing from Beijing this week, with threats of retaliation if McCarthy dared to meet with Tsai: "We firmly oppose this and will take resolute countermeasures," said the spokesman for China's Taiwan Affairs Office. He's free to put those thoughts on TikTok and see if they go viral, but they're not changing the position of what used to be called the Free World.

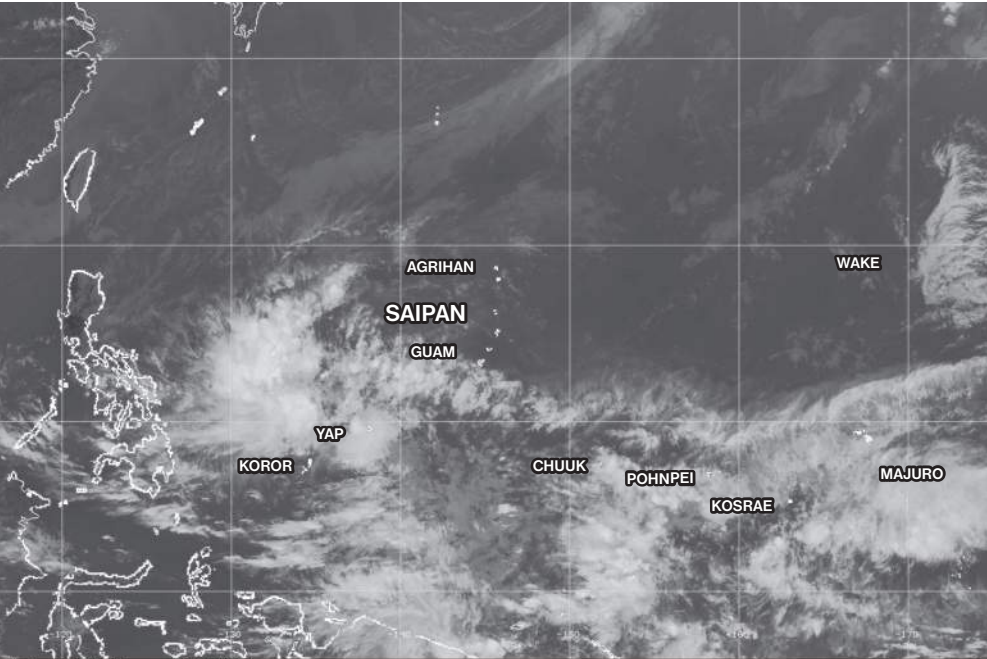
China's objectives are transparent: to squeeze the life out of Hong Kong, turning what was a vibrant and creative global city into a docile piece of economic machinery, and dominate Taiwan—to become an unrivaled and consolidated power that brooks no dissent.

The United States, which is supposed to care about human rights and government of, by and for the people, should see those ambitions as contrary to its values—and use every ounce of soft power it has to stand with those standing in front of the Chinese tanks. President Biden has backbone; he's got to exercise it.

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The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny	
87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	77°	87°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 5:43 AM, SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies with isolated showers in the Marianas waters. Light to gentle winds over the region. Ritidian buoy has combined seas at 5 to 6 feet and altimetry has 7 to 8 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	82° / 76°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°	
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°	
Majuro	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:30 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:30 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:30 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:31 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:49 AM	10:19 PM
Tuesday	-	9:42 AM	11:21 PM
Wednesday	-	10:42 AM	-
Thursday	-	12:23 AM	11:44 AM
Friday	-	1:21 AM	12:48 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	60° / 51°	
Beijing	Thunderstorms	80° / 70°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	89° / 81°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 74°	
London	Partly Cloudy	71° / 57°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	89° / 67°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57° / 44°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°	
New York	Thunderstorms	79° / 64°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	91° / 77°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	82° / 63°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	88° / 77°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	97° / 79°	
Salem	Isolated Thunderstorms	91° / 72°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	67° / 52°	
Seoul	Thunderstorms	79° / 75°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	92° / 78°	
Washington, DC	Rain	84° / 61°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:17 AM	Low Tide	1.11	
9:21 AM	High Tide	1.81	
4:41 PM	Low Tide	-0.15	
11:46 PM	High Tide	1.78	

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 4, 5, 7	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW9308	3:45AM	7:30AM	4, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW9307	9:00PM	2:45AM+1	3, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Business

By LEIGH GASES

leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Dine and swim at Aqua Resort Club

What's not to like about the eat-and-swim deal at the Aqua Resort Club Saipan?

For just \$22 per adult and \$11 for children aged 6-11, you can eat to your heart's desire at the themed lunch buffet at the Costa Terrace Restaurant, then make your way to the scenic Michelle's Pool Bar for a good dip after a delicious meal.

The lunch with pool pass is only available from Monday through Friday.

This time around, ARC's food and beverage team has concocted and combined their popular themed lunches

that will take your taste buds on a trip to countries without having to purchase a plane ticket.

On Monday and Wednesday, treat yourself to the popular Asian-themed cuisine, with a live tempura and soba station on Monday. On Wednesday, the live station is a Mongolian noodle station.

Tuesday and Friday is the western-themed cuisine with a live station of pizza and pasta on Tuesday. A great combination of beer chicken and pizza is the live station on Friday.

The island-themed cuisine is set for Thursday and Saturday, with shawarma and red rice is the live station on

Thursday. On Saturday, fill up your plates and stomachs with a live station of barbeque and red rice.

Indulge in these meals cooked right in front of you by the restaurant's experienced culinary team, and also round it off with a whole line of cold and hot appetizers, entrees, and sweet and decadent desserts.

The swimming pool is open until 5pm and is only available for those who dined in. Extra guests will be charged and to avail of the swim pass, make your way to the front desk, show your buffet receipt, and they will give you a wristband.

ARC's food and beverage manager, Marie Ann Razon-Isip, is excited to welcome new faces and at the same time reconnect with regular diners as she invites everyone to take advantage of this great deal.

Spend your time with family and friends during the weekend, or take a break from responsibilities during the middle of the week and relax and indulge at the peaceful and picturesque Aqua Resort Club Saipan.

The restaurant is open for lunch from 11:30am to 2pm from Monday through Saturday. For reservations, call (670) 322-1234.



LEIGH GASES

Enjoy the live pizza and pasta station every Tuesday with the western-themed cuisine at Aqua Resort Club Saipan's Costa Terrace. On Friday, pair the pizza with beer chicken and make your way to the pool after for \$22 per adult and \$11 per child.



LEIGH GASES

Choose either white or red sauce—or mix it up at the live pasta station on Tuesdays at Aqua Resort Club Saipan's Costa Terrace.



Ukraine's coal miners dig deep to power a nation at war

DNIPROPETROVSK OBLAST, Ukraine (AP)—Deep underground in southeastern Ukraine, miners work around the clock extracting coal to power the country's war effort and to provide civilians with light and heat.

Coal is central to meeting Ukraine's energy needs following the Russia's military's 6-month campaign to destroy power stations and other infrastructure, the chief engineer of a mining company in Dnipropetrovsk province said.

Elevators carry the company's workers underground to the depths of the mine. From there, they operate heavy machinery that digs out the coal and moves the precious resource above ground. It is hard work, the miners said, but essential to keep the country going.

"Today, the country's energy independence is more than a priority," said Oleksandr, the chief engineer, who, like all the coal miners interviewed, spoke on the condition of giv-

ing only his first name for security reasons.

Russia's attacks on Ukraine's nuclear, thermal and other power stations continue to disrupt electricity service as the war grinds on for a second year.

Negotiations to demilitarize the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, which the Kremlin's forces captured last year at the start of the full-scale invasion, are at an impasse. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy opposes any proposal that would legitimize Russian control of the plant, which is Europe's largest nuclear energy facility.

At full capacity, the plant can produce 6,000 megawatts of electricity. The Ukrainian operators of the plant shut down the last reactor in September, saying it was too risky to run while Russia bombarded nearby areas.

Shelling has damaged the plant numerous times, raising fears of a possible nuclear meltdown. Russian missiles have also threatened the power lines

needed to operate vital cooling equipment at Zaporizhzhia and Ukraine's other nuclear plants.

Before the war, the Ukrainian government planned to reduce the country's reliance on coal-fired power stations, which contribute to global warming, and to increase nuclear energy and natural gas production. But when Russian attacks damaged thermal plants in the middle of winter, it was coal that helped keep Ukrainian homes warm, Oleksandr said.

The work of the coal miners cannot fully compensate for the loss of energy from nuclear power plants, but every megawatt they had a role in generating reduced gaps.

"We come and work with optimism, trying not to think about what is going on outside the mine," a miner named Serhii said. "We work with a smile and forget about it. And when we leave, then another life begins (for us), of survival and everything else."

While many miners from the area joined the armed

forces when Russian troops invaded and are now fighting at the front in eastern Ukraine, nearly 150 displaced workers from other coal-producing regions in the east joined the team in Dnipropetrovsk.

US sanction officials plan missions to clamp down on Russia

WASHINGTON (AP)—Top sanctions officials from the U.S. Treasury Department plan special international trips this month to pressure firms and countries still doing business with Russia to cut off financial ties because of the war on Ukraine.

The message is that those working with Russia's government must decide:

1. Continue to provide Moscow with material support or
2. Keep doing business with countries that represent 50 percent of the global economy.

Those are the choices to be laid out, senior Treasury officials told reporters on a

call Friday. They spoke on the condition of anonymity to preview the travel plans.

Treasury officials Liz Rosenberg and Brian Nelson—specialists in sanctions and terrorist financing—will travel to Europe this month to meet with leaders of financial institutions in Switzerland, Italy and Germany. They plan to share intelligence on potential sanctions evaders and to warn of the potential penalties for failure to comply with international sanctions.

Rosenberg will also make a stop in the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan to urge the country's private businesses not to provide material or intelligence support to

the Kremlin. Earlier this year, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited Kazakhstan to pledge U.S. support for its independence and to stress the importance of respect for "sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence."

Central Asian states have been neutral on Ukraine, neither supporting Russia's invasion nor U.S. and Western condemnations of the war.

Senior Treasury officials on Friday pointed to Russia's slowing economic growth as a sign that efforts to sanction Russian oligarchs and large swaths of the Russian economy have been successful. The value of the ruble also is falling.

Nation

Taiwan threat from China serious, House GOP chairman says

WASHINGTON (AP)—The chairman of the House Select Committee on China said Saturday the U.S. must take seriously the threat posed to Taiwan, as Beijing launched military drills around the island in the aftermath of the Taiwanese president's meetings with American lawmakers.

Rep. Mike Gallagher, R-Wis., who attended the meeting with President Tsai Ing-wen in California last week, told The Associated Press that he plans to lead his committee in working to shore up the island government's defenses, encouraging Congress to expedite military aid to Taiwan.

"I think it all just points to what is obvious," Gallagher told the AP, arguing that Chinese President Xi Jinping is intent on reunifying Taiwan with the mainland.

"We need to be moving heaven and earth to enhance our deterrence and denial posture, so that Xi Jinping concludes that he just can't do it," Gallagher said.

China conducted drills with warships and dozens of fighter jets around Taiwan on Saturday, the Taiwanese government said, in what was viewed as retaliation for the meeting between the U.S. lawmakers and the president of the self-ruled island democracy claimed by Beijing as part of its territory.

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy hosted Tsai in a bipartisan session at the Ronald



Chairman Rep. Mike Gallagher, R-Wis., listens during a hearing of a special House committee dedicated to countering China, on Capitol Hill, Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2023, in Washington.

Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California, with more than a dozen members of the U.S. House for what was the most sensitive stop during her transit through the U.S.

China's response to Tsai's transit through the U.S. has not, so far, been as intense as its reaction last year after then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan.

While both McCarthy and Tsai spoke in measured remarks after the meeting about maintaining the status quo between their countries, which have no formal diplomatic ties, the daylong meeting enraged China.

The Chinese military announced the start of three-day "combat readiness patrols" as a warning to Taiwanese who want to make the is-

land's de facto independence permanent.

Taiwan split with China in 1949 after a civil war, and the United States broke off official ties with Taiwan in 1979 while formally establishing diplomatic relations with the Beijing government.

The U.S. acknowledges a "one China" policy in which Beijing lays claim to Taiwan,

but it does not endorse China's claim to the island and remains Taiwan's key provider of military and defense assistance.

The ruling Communist Party says the island is obliged to rejoin the mainland, by force if necessary. Beijing says contact with foreign officials encourages Taiwanese who want formal independence, a step

the ruling party says would lead to war.

Chinese officials condemned Tsai's meetings with lawmakers and announced sanctions on two organizations that hosted her in the U.S., but its immediate response so far has been less forceful than its reaction to Pelosi's August trip to Taiwan.

China had warned U.S. lawmakers not to join the meeting with Tsai, Gallagher said. And after the meeting, China urged the U.S. off what it called a "wrong and dangerous road"

Gallagher, who served as a U.S. Marine with tours in Iraq, said U.S. lawmakers will not be intimidated by the Chinese.

"It's an attempt to shift the ideological battle space and, again, an attempt to intimidate us, and make us feel like we're changing the status quo and provoking them, when the opposite is true," he said.

Gallagher said he wants Congress to work on stepping up its military commitments to Taiwan. He said the U.S. should be more quickly sending weapon systems to Taiwan for its defense.

One idea that arose from the meeting, he said, was for the U.S. to help Taiwan with technology to manufacture its own defense systems.

In 2022, China responded in the aftermath of Pelosi's visit with its largest live-fire drills in decades, including firing a missile over the island.

Unemployment fell to 3.5% under Biden. For how much longer?

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden keeps seeing good economic news and bad public approval ratings. The unemployment rate fell to 3.5% in March. More than 236,000 jobs were added. But there has been no political payoff for the president.

U.S. adults are skipping past the jobs numbers and generally feeling horrible about the economy. White House aides can list plenty of reasons for the pessimism: high inflation, the hangover from the pandemic and the political polarization that leaves Republicans automatically believing the economy is sour under a Democratic president.

Going forward, an emerging challenge for Biden might be the expectation that unemployment will get much worse this year.

This is the opinion of the Federal Reserve, which expects the jobless rate to hit 4.5%. And the Congressional Budget Office (5.1%). Even the proposed budget that Biden just put forth models

an increase (4.3%) from the current rate. Many Wall Street analysts are, likewise, operating under the shorthand that the Fed tames inflation by raising interest rates, which in turn causes demand to tumble and joblessness to rise.

Friday's jobs report showed that the economy is cooling as wage growth slowed, but the labor market is still running much hotter than the overall economy in a way that can fuel doubts. Biden's bet is that the conventional economic wisdom is wrong and that 6% inflation can be beaten while keeping unemployment low.

"We continue to face economic challenges from a position of strength," Biden said in a statement about the latest jobs report.

A new independent economic analysis helps to show why the low unemployment rate has yet to resonate with people: There aren't enough workers to fill the open jobs, causing the economy to operate with speed bumps and fric-

tions that make things seem worse than they are in the data. The analysis suggests that the economy would arguably function far more smoothly with unemployment higher at 4.6%, even though that could translate into nearly 2 million fewer people holding jobs.

The job market is what economists call "inefficiently tight," a problem the United States also faced during the Vietnam War, the Korean War and World War II. The current tightness is as severe as it was at the end of World War II. This mismatch causes companies and consumers alike to feel as though the economy is in a rut, said Pascal Michailat, an economist at Brown University.

"For shopkeepers, it means operating shorter hours because it's not possible to find workers to fill the extra time slots," he said. "For households, it means more time trying to hire nannies or plumbers or construction workers and less time doing enjoyable things."

ACROSS THE NATION

Court backs teacher firing over transgender students' names

CHICAGO (AP)—An Indiana school district did not violate a former music teacher's rights by pushing him to resign after the man refused to use transgender students' names and gender pronouns, a federal appeals court said in an order released Friday. The decision from the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a prior ruling in the case by a federal judge. According to court records, John Kluge was hired in 2014 as the music and orchestra teacher for Brownsburg High School about 20 miles (32 kilometers) northwest of Indianapolis. In 2017, district officials began requiring the high school's teachers to use the names and pronouns listed in the school's official student database, where changes were permitted with letters from a student's parent and a doctor.

Police: 6 people wounded in shooting on South Carolina beach

ISLE OF PALMS, S.C. (AP)—Gunfire erupted on a South Carolina beach during a "senior skip day" event involving numerous teenagers Friday, wounding six people and prompting charges against two for unlawful possession of guns, police in South Carolina said. The shots broke out around 5:20 p.m. on Isle of Palms, 94 miles (151 kilometers) south of Myrtle Beach. Police are still investigating the shooting, and are asking for the public to provide additional information or video footage. Isle of Palms

Police Chief Kevin Cornett said during a news conference Saturday that police arrested and charged a 16-year-old with possessing a stolen firearm and unlawfully carrying it. Cornett said police are still investigating whether the juvenile was involved in the shooting. Additionally, an 18-year-old was arrested on a charge of unlawful possession of a firearm in a municipal parking lot, the police chief said.

Report: Florida officials cut key data from vaccine study

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—An analysis that was the basis of a highly criticized recommendation from Florida's surgeon general cautioning young men against getting the COVID-19 vaccine omitted information that showed catching the virus could increase the risk of a cardiac-related death much more than getting the mRNA shot, according to drafts of the analysis obtained by the Tampa Bay Times. The nonbinding recommendation made by Florida Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo last fall ran counter to the advice provided by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Ladapo, a Harvard-trained medical doctor who was appointed by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis in 2021 to head the Florida Department of Health, has drawn intense scrutiny over his shared resistance with the Republican governor to COVID-19 mandates for vaccines and masks and other health policies endorsed by the federal government.

World

China flies fighter jets near Taiwan after leader's US trip

BEIJING (AP)—China sent warships and dozens of fighter jets toward Taiwan on Saturday, the Taiwanese government said, in retaliation for a meeting between the U.S. House of Representatives speaker and the president of the self-ruled island democracy claimed by Beijing as part of its territory.

The Chinese military announced the start of three-day "combat readiness patrols" as a warning to Taiwanese who want to make the island's de facto independence permanent. The People's Liberation Army gave no indication whether they might include a

repeat of previous exercises with missiles fired into the sea, which disrupted shipping and airline flights.

Speaker Kevin McCarthy held talks with President Tsai Ing-wen on Thursday in California, adding to a series of foreign lawmakers who have met Tsai to show support in the face of Chinese intimidation. Beijing responded Friday by imposing a travel ban and financial sanctions against American groups and individuals associated with Tsai's U.S. visit.

On Saturday, eight warships and 71 planes were detected near Taiwan, 45 of which flew

across the middle line of the strait that separates it from the mainland, the island's Ministry of Defense said. It said they included Chengdu J-10, Shenyang J-11 and Shenyang J-16 jet fighters.

Also Saturday, the navy planned to hold "live fire training" in Luoyuan Bay in Fujian province opposite Taiwan, the local Maritime Authority announced. Ships were banned during the firing, which also was due to take place on five dates over the next two weeks.

Taiwan split with China in 1949 after a civil war. The ruling Communist Party says the island is obliged to rejoin the

mainland, by force if necessary. Beijing says contact with foreign officials encourages Taiwanese who want formal independence, a step the ruling party says would lead to war.

"This is a serious warning against the collusion and provocation between the 'Taiwan independence' separatist forces and external forces," said a PLA statement. The "Joint Sword" exercises "defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Plans also called for the exercise to include a destroyer, missile boats, ballistic missiles and land-based anti-ship missiles as well as early

warning, electronic warfare and tanker aircraft, according to the The Global Times, a newspaper published by the Communist Party.

The Taiwanese military said missile defense systems were activated and air and sea patrols sent to track the Chinese aircraft.

"We condemn such an irrational act that has jeopardized regional security and stability," a Ministry of Defense statement said.

Chinese President Xi Jinping's government has stepped up efforts to intimidate the island by flying fighter jets and bombers nearby and firing

missiles into the sea.

The United States has no official relations with Taiwan, a center for high-tech industry and one of the biggest global traders, but maintains extensive informal and commercial ties. Washington is required by federal law to ensure the island of 22 million people has the means to defend itself if China attacks.

Military analysts suggest a possible Chinese strategy in the event of an attack is to try to pressure Taiwan to surrender by blocking sea and air traffic, preventing the United States, Japan or other allies from intervening or sending supplies.

Israeli military retaliates after rockets fired from Syria

JERUSALEM (AP)—The Israeli military said its forces attacked targets in Syria early Sunday after six rockets were launched from Syrian territory in two batches toward Israel in a rare attack from Israel's northeastern neighbor.

After the second barrage of three rockets, Israel initially said it responded with artillery fire into the area in Syria from where the rockets were fired. Later, the military said Israeli fighter jets attacked Syrian army sites, including a compound of Syria's 4th Division and radar and artillery posts.

The rocket firings came after days of escalating violence on multiple fronts over tension in Jerusalem and an Israeli police raid on the city's most sensitive holy site.

In the second barrage, which was launched early Sunday, two of the rockets crossed the border into Israel, with one being intercepted and the second

landing in an open area, the Israeli military said. In the first attack, on Saturday, one rocket landed in a field in the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights. Fragments of another destroyed missile fell into Jordanian territory near the Syrian border, Jordan's military reported.

There were no reports of casualties.

A Damascus-based Palestinian group loyal to the Syrian regime claimed responsibility for launching the three missiles Saturday, reported Beirut-based Al-Mayadeen TV.

The report quoted Al-Quds Brigade, a militia different than the larger Palestinian Islamic Jihad's armed wing with a similar name, as saying it fired the rockets to retaliate for the police raid on Al-Aqsa Mosque.

In Syria, an adviser to President Bashar Assad described the rocket strikes as "part of the previous, present and

continuing response to the brutal enemy."

Israel, which has vowed to stop Iranian entrenchment in Syria, has carried out hundreds of strikes in government-controlled parts of that country in recent years, though it rarely acknowledges them. Before the latest strikes, Syrian officials had attributed 10 attacks to Israel this year, some of which put the Damascus and Aleppo airports temporarily out of service and killed civilians as well as Syrian soldiers and Iranian military advisers.

In the occupied West Bank, Israeli security forces fatally shot a 20-year-old Palestinian in the town of Azzun, Palestinian health officials said, stirring protests in the area. The Israeli military said troops fired at Palestinians hurling stones and explosive devices. The Palestinian Health Ministry identified the Palestinian killed as Ayed Salim.

Afghan religious scholars criticize girls' education ban

JALALABAD, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan religious scholars Saturday criticized a ban on female education, as a key Taliban minister warned clerics not to rebel against the government on the controversial issue.

Girls cannot go to school beyond sixth grade in Afghanistan, with the education ban extending to universities. Women are barred from public spaces, including parks, and most forms of employment. Last week, Afghan women were barred from working at the U.N., according to the global body, although the Taliban have yet to make a public announcement.

Authorities present the education restrictions as temporary suspensions rather than bans, but universities and schools reopened in March without their female students.

The bans have raised fierce

international uproar, increasing the country's isolation at a time when its economy has collapsed and worsened a humanitarian crisis.

Two religious scholars who are well-known within Afghanistan said Saturday that authorities should reconsider their decision. Public opposition to Taliban policies is rare, although some Taliban leaders have voiced their disagreement with the decision-making process.

One scholar, Abdul Rahman Abid, said institutions should be permitted to re-admit girls and women through separate classes, hiring female teachers, staggering timetables, and even building new facilities.

Knowledge is obligatory in Islam for men and women, he told The Associated Press, and Islam allows women to study.

"My daughter is absent from

school, I am ashamed, I have no answer for my daughter," he said. "My daughter asks why girls are not allowed to learn in the Islamic system. I have no answer for her."

He said reform is needed and warned that any delays are at the expense of the global Islamic community and also weakens the government.

Another scholar, who is a member of the Taliban, told the AP there is still time for ministries to solve the problem of girls' education. Toryali Himat cited ministries comprising the inner circle of the supreme leader, Hibatullah Akhundzada, who is based in Kandahar.

It was on his orders that the government banned girls from classrooms. Himat said there are two types of criticism, one that destroys the system and another that makes corrective criticism.

IN MEMORY OF

†Yvette Sablan Cruz Iguel

LOVINGLY KNOWN AS "BEBANG"

BORN TO LIFE ON OCTOBER 21, 1984
CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE ON MARCH 29, 2023

In her new Life, Yvette will be met at the gates of Heaven by her:

Father:	†Herman Santos Cruz
Mother-In-Law:	†Escolastica I. Taitano-Iguel
Reared Mother-In-Law:	†Teresa Igitol Taitano

Her loving memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Husband:	Jose "Ping" Benito Taitano Iguel
Children:	Therese Marie C. Iguel/ Reid Teregeyo, Noah Jose, Herman Clayton
Mother:	Eleanor Sablan Cruz
Siblings & In-Laws:	Yvonne/Rodney Camacho & Children and Grandchildren, Gordon/Marlyn S. Cruz & Children, Geoffrey/Kiyannah Cruz & Children, Yuline/Kelvin Fitial & Child, Gary/Doris Cruz & Children, Yolanda/Luis Macaranas & Children
Father-In-Law:	Sylvestre Ilo Iguel
Aunt-In-Law:	Edwina Igitol Taitano
Brothers & Sisters In-Law:	John D. Iguel/Tanya Concepcion & Children, Aurelia Marie T. Iguel/Izaiah Falig & Children, Weena Gwendolyn T. Iguel/Ryan Sablan



Numerous nephews, nieces, cousins, aunts, uncles, godchildren, and friends will miss her dearly.

Daily mass intentions are offered at Kristo Rai Parish, Garapan at 6 a.m. daily except Wednesday at 6 p.m. and Saturday at 5 p.m. Also offered at 6 p.m. nightly Thursday-Saturday, and 8 a.m. on Sunday at Bithen Delos Remedios Church, Tanapag.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on April 12, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at Mount Carmel Cathedral, followed by interment services at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your thoughts, prayers, and words of comfort are sincerely appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghilisu, and Thank you.

**JOSE T. IGUEL & CHILDREN
†HERMAN AND ELEANOR CRUZ, CHILDREN, AND FAMILIES
SYLVESTRE AND †ECOSLASTICA IGUEL, CHILDREN, AND FAMILIES**

Health & Wellness

Medical tourism: Traveling outside US for care is common

By TOM MURPHY
AP HEALTH WRITER

The recent kidnapping of four Americans in Mexico highlights a common practice for many people in the U.S.: traveling to other countries for medical care that either is not available at home or costs a lot less.

The four were abducted—leading to the deaths of two—during a trip to Mexico that one relative said was for cosmetic surgery.

People leave the U.S. for dental procedures, plastic surgery, cancer

treatments and prescription drugs, experts say. Besides Mexico, other common destinations include Canada, India and Thailand.

Here's a closer look at the practice.

Medical tourism growing

Medical tourism has been growing in popularity for years, according to Lydia Gan, an economist at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke who studies the practice.

This travel is popular with people who have no health insurance or plans

that make them pay thousands of dollars before coverage begins.

Big employers also sometimes send people covered by their insurance to other countries for hip or knee replacements or bariatric surgery. Some also send people to Mexico for expensive prescription drugs.

Cost is a huge factor. Care in countries like Mexico can be more than 50% cheaper than it is in the United States, according to Jonathan Edelheit, CEO of the non-profit Medical Tourism Association, an in-

dustry trade group.

And cosmetic surgeries, like tummy tucks that cost thousands of dollars, are largely uncovered by U.S. health insurers.

Patients also sometimes travel because they can get quicker access to some care outside the U.S. They also may want to seek treatment from a doctor who speaks their language or comes from the same culture.

demic stay-at-home orders but then quickly rebounded.

Most of the people visiting Mexico for care are Mexican or Latino immigrants living in the United States, he said.

Non-Latino patients mainly cross the border for dental work, to buy prescription drugs or receive care like plastic surgery or some cancer treatments not covered in the U.S.

Millions of trips

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says millions of U.S. residents travel abroad for care annually.

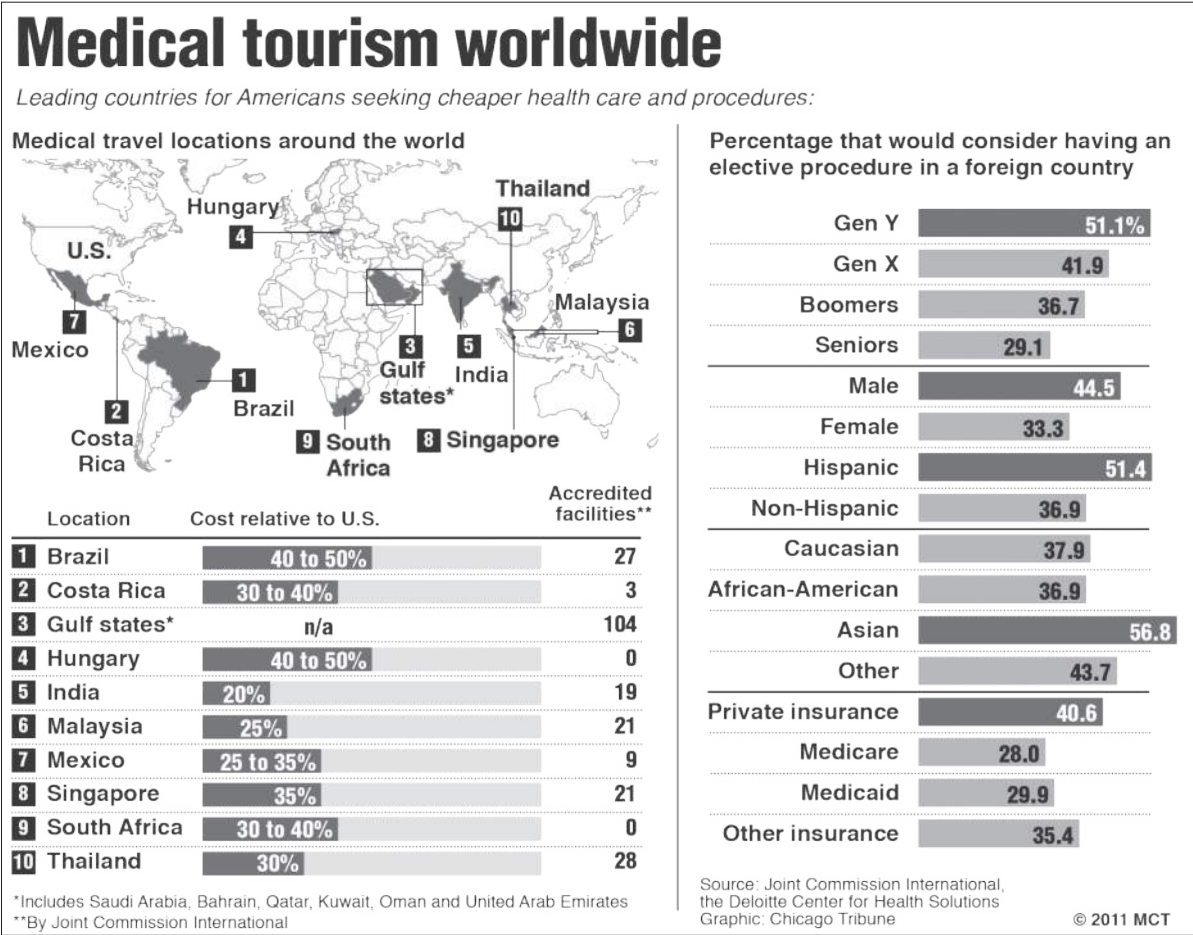
Researcher Arturo Bustamante estimates that roughly 400,000 people traveled from the U.S. to Mexico each year for care before COVID-19 hit. The University of California, Los Angeles health policy professor said the number dropped under pan-

Weighing risks

Patients can take steps to lessen risks of receiving care in another country.

They should heed U.S. government travel alerts about their intended destinations, Edelheit said.

Trip safety also can be enhanced if a medical tourism agent works with the patient, Gan noted. Hospitals or care providers often will have someone pick patients up at the airport and take them to their doctor appointment or hotel.



MAYO CLINIC MINUTE

Are colon and rectal cancers treated differently?

By DEB BALZER
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

Colorectal cancer is a term that combines both colon cancer and rectal cancers. The colon and rectum are two different parts of the lower digestive tract. These different cancers also mean different approaches to treatment that may involve the use of radiation and chemotherapy in addition to surgery.

When it comes to treating cancer, experience matters, says Dr. Eric Dozois, a Mayo Clinic colon and rectal surgeon. And Mayo Clinic has been transforming this type of care for more than 100 years.

Colon and rectal cancers may be detected during the same screening, but they are treated differently, says Dr. Eric Dozois.

“Our approach to rectal cancer, for example, often involves more aggressive treatments that help prevent it from coming back,” says Dr. Dozois.

Innovation plays a strong role in rectal cancer surgery at Mayo Clin-

ic’s Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Robotic surgery allows your surgeon to work more efficiently in small spaces, providing an enhanced view of the area where the operation is taking place. Some of the benefits include:

- Surgery performed while the surgeon sits at a console and uses controls to guide high-tech surgical tools.
- Allows surgeons to work in small spaces with three-dimensional visualization, and with more precision, flexibility and control than with conventional techniques.
- Minimally invasive, fewer complications, quicker recovery, fewer urological complications and may reduce nerve dysfunction.

“We’re using laparoscopic and robotic platforms to really offer patients surgery that is most up to date in terms of minimally invasive techniques, the least amount of trauma to the patient, but yet achieving the goals of surgery to remove the cancer,” he says.

If colon cancer is caught early, surgery may be the only treat-

Healthy Living

Cutting cancer risk

Eating cruciform vegetables, such as cabbage, may reduce the risk of lung cancer.

Meet the cruciforms

Contain isothiocyanate chemicals, which protect against lung cancer

- Cabbage
- Broccoli
- Brussels sprouts
- Cauliflower

Source: The Lancet, TNS Photo Service

The gut-brain connection

ON NUTRITION
By BARBARA INTERMILL
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

If you ever thought your digestive system’s only role was to break down food, think again.

According to microbiome researcher Christopher Lowry, “what happens in the gut affects other parts of the body, including the brain.” And much of this activity is related to trillions of good and bad bacteria—collectively called our “microbiome”—that inhabit our gastrointestinal tract.

Lowry, who is currently conducting research at the Department of Integrative Physiology and Center for Neuroscience at the University of Colorado, Boulder on the relationship between stress-related disorders and the bacteria that live in our guts, was a featured speaker at a daylong workshop hosted by the Institute for Brain Potential in Cheyenne, Wyoming, titled “Understanding the Gut Brain.”

“Americans are microbially deprived,” said Lowry. “Gut microbes are critical for a healthy gut and a healthy brain.”

And a diversity of good bugs appears to be the most beneficial. That’s because each type of microbe has a distinct effect on the body. Some produce natural antibiotics to fight infections, for instance. Others enhance our body’s ability to extract energy from food. Still others produce chemicals that can actually improve our moods and calm stress. When the balance of these good bugs gets out of whack, we open ourselves to not-so-good conditions.

So how do we encourage the growth of beneficial bacteria in our guts? Spend more time in nature, Lowry suggested. That’s where we encounter a wide variety of healthful microbes.

And, consume a variety of foods that feed good bacteria.

Top of the list? Plants. Health-promoting microbes thrive on fibers found in foods that sprout from the ground.

“Each plant has its own microbiome,” Lowry explained. And according to results from the American Gut Project, the largest published study to date of the human microbiome, people who ate at least 30 different types of plant foods a week had more diverse bacteria in their guts than those who ate 10 or less.

My husband and I are not vegetarians, but we do consume our fair share of fruit, vegetables, beans and grains. How hard would it be to eat 30 varieties of these foods every week?

We took the challenge. For a week, I recorded every different type of plant food we ate, no matter how much or how little. For example, our salad one night had cabbage, kale, carrots, raisins and sunflower seeds. That’s five!

The next day we had blueberries and bananas in our oatmeal, three more. Celery, onion, beans, corn, tomatoes and garlic in my stew the next day added another six to our list.

It was kind of fun ... and not impossible. I found myself searching for olives to toss into egg salad. And each type of nut I ate for a snack contributed to a wider diversity of my microbiome.

The point, according to this and other researchers, is that our bodies thrive on variety. And when it comes to healthful food choices, that may be a critical key to health.

Barbara Intermill is a registered dietitian nutritionist and syndicated columnist. She is the author of Quinn-Essential Nutrition: The Uncomplicated Science of Eating. Email her at barbara@quinessentialnutrition.com.

Life & Style

XXXTentacion's convicted killers sentenced to life in prison

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—Three men were given life sentences on Thursday for the 2018 killing of star rapper XXXTentacion, who was shot outside a South Florida motorcycle shop while being robbed of \$50,000.

Michael Boatwright, 28, Dedrick Williams, 26, and Trayvon Newsome, 24, were each convicted last month of first-degree murder and armed

robbery by a jury following eight days of deliberations.

Prosecutors had not sought the death penalty, so life in prison was the only sentence that Broward County Circuit Judge Michael Usan could impose for the first-degree murder convictions.

During the month-long trial, prosecutors linked Boatwright, Williams and Newsome to the June 18, 2018, shooting outside Riva Motorsports in sub-

urban Fort Lauderdale through extensive surveillance video taken inside and outside the store, plus cellphone videos the men took showing themselves flashing fistfuls of \$100 bills hours after the slaying.

Prosecutors also had the testimony of a fourth man, Robert Allen, a former friend of the defendants who said he participated in the robbery. He pleaded guilty last year to second-degree murder. His

sentence was delayed until the conclusion of the other three defendants' trial.

Allen's sentence could be as little as time served—meaning he could soon be released—or as long as life, depending partly on how much weight prosecutors give to his assistance.

Defense attorneys accused Allen of being a liar who was motivated by his desire to avoid a life sentence. They also said prosecutors and detectives did a poor job on the investi-

gation and didn't look at other possible suspects, including the Canadian rap star Drake, who had feuded with XXXTentacion online.

XXXTentacion, whose real name was Jahseh Onfroy, had just left Riva Motorsports with a friend when an SUV swerved in front of him and blocked his BMW.

Surveillance video showed two masked gunmen emerging and confronting the 20-year-old singer at the driver's win-

dow, with one shooting him repeatedly. They then grabbed a Louis Vuitton bag containing cash that XXXTentacion had just withdrawn from the bank, got back into the SUV and sped away. The rapper's friend was not harmed.

Boatwright was identified as the primary shooter and Newsome was accused of being the other gunman. Williams was accused of driving the SUV and Allen of being inside the vehicle.

3 new 'Star Wars' movies coming, including Rey's return

LONDON (AP)—For "Star Wars" lovers, new entertainment is a little less far, far away—Lucasfilm announced three new live-action films in the franchise Friday.

The news, which includes the return of Daisy Ridley as Rey in one of the films, was revealed at Star Wars Celebration Europe 2023 in London by Lucasfilm President Kathleen Kennedy and also on the Star Wars website. Directing the movies will be James

Mangold, Dave Filoni and Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy. Kennedy brought the directors onstage for the announcement.

Mangold's film will return to the dawn of the Jedi. Filoni's will be about the New Republic, and "will close out the interconnected stories told in 'The Mandalorian,' 'The Book of Boba Fett,' 'Ahsoka,' and other Disney+ series," the



Ridley

announcement said. Obaid-Chinoy's movie will focus on the events after "The Rise of Skywalker," and feature Ridley back as Rey "as she builds a new Jedi Order."

Mangold directed "Logan" and the upcoming "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny." Filoni helmed "The Mandalorian" and "Ahsoka," and Obaid-Chinoy directed "Ms. Marvel" and "Saving Face."

Fentanyl caused 'Gangsta's Paradise' rapper Coolio's death

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Gangsta's Paradise" rapper Coolio suffered an accidental death from the effects of fentanyl, heroin and methamphetamine last year, the Los Angeles County coroner's office reported Thursday.

The county agency also cited cardiomyopathy, a disease that makes it more difficult for the heart to pump blood to the body, as a "significant condition." Investigators also determined Coolio's severe asthma and cigarette smoking played a

role in his death.

Coolio's former longtime manager Jarez Posey also confirmed the cause of death Thursday.

Coolio—born Artis Leon Ivey Jr., on Aug. 1, 1963—died at the Los Angeles home of a friend on Sept. 28, 2022. He was 59.

Coolio won a Grammy for best solo rap performance for "Gangsta's Paradise," the 1995 hit from the soundtrack of the Michelle Pfeiffer film "Dangerous Minds" that sampled Stevie Wonder's 1976 song

"Pastime Paradise."

Coolio was born in Monessen, Pennsylvania, and later moved to Compton, California.

He started rapping at 15 and knew by 18 it was what he wanted to do with his life, he said in interviews. Coolio attended community college before devoting himself full-time to the hip-hop scene.

His career album sales totaled 4.8 million, with 978 million on-demand streams of his songs, according to Luminate. He was nominated for six Grammys.

Paul Cattermole of UK pop group S Club 7 dies at 46

LONDON (AP)—Paul Cattermole, a member of early-2000s British pop group S Club 7, has died just weeks after the band announced a reunion tour. He was 46.

The band and Cattermole's family said Friday that "it is with great sadness that we announce the unexpected passing of our beloved son and brother Paul Cattermole."

They said Cattermole was found at his home in Dorset, southwest England, on Thursday and pronounced dead later that afternoon.

"While the cause of death is currently unknown, Dorset Police has confirmed that there were no suspicious circumstances," they said.

In a statement on social media, members of S Club 7 said they were "truly devastated by the passing of our brother Paul. There are no words to describe the deep sadness and loss we all feel."

"We were so lucky to have had him in our lives and are thankful for the amazing memories we have," the

band said.

Formed in 1998 by Simon Fuller, the music mogul behind the Spice Girls, S Club 7 was launched—like The Monkees—through a TV show about a pop band, in which the members played fictionalized

versions of themselves.

S Club 7 had a string of upbeat U.K. hits including "Don't Stop Movin'," bubblegum pop classic "Reach" and ballad "Never Had a Dream Come True," which was also a top 10 hit in the United States.

Ojibwe woman makes history as North Dakota poet laureate

By **TRISHA AHMED**
ASSOCIATED PRESS/REPORT FOR AMERICA

North Dakota lawmakers have appointed an Ojibwe woman as the state's poet laureate, making her the first Native American to hold this position in the state and increasing attention to her expertise on the troubled history of Native American boarding schools.

Denise Lajimodiere, a citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band in Belcourt, has written several award-winning books of poetry. She's considered a national expert on the history of Native American boarding schools and wrote an aca-

demic book called "Stringing Rosaries" in 2019 on the atrocities experienced by boarding school survivors.

"I'm honored and humbled to represent my tribe. They are and always will be my inspiration," Lajimodiere said in an interview, following a bipartisan confirmation of her two-year term as poet laureate on Wednesday.

Poet laureates represent the state in inaugural speeches, commencements, poetry readings and educational events, said Kim Konikow, executive director of the North Dakota Council on the Arts.

Dad's parade of wives leaves grown child cold

DEAR ABBY: I am a 23-year-old child of divorce. For nine months, my father has been dating a woman he was seeing while still married to my stepmother. My youngest brother (age 19) and I have yet to meet her. If they marry, this will be Dad's third marriage.

While I love him, he deeply hurt not only my former stepmother but also my mother, because he cheated on them both multiple times. He excuses it by saying he had no other choice.

I recently moved back to my hometown after living in New York for 16 months. At some point soon, the three of us, as well as my middle brother, will likely have dinner together. I'm afraid I'll lash out at her and possibly lose my father in the process. I feel like a child when he tries to explain his behavior in an indirect way. Must I accept this new woman as my father's partner or risk him dropping out of my life?

REVOLVING DOORS

DEAR REVOLVING DOORS: If you want a relationship with your father, it's important that you not lash out at whatever woman he is with, whether it be "fiancee" number three, four, five, etc. This isn't as much a question of accepting this new woman as it may be accepting your father for who he is. If things eventually turn out as I suspect they will, YOU may choose to drop out of HIS life.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My wife's niece had a baby. My wife called

several times asking to visit the child but was told that her niece's pregnancy and delivery were very stressful and she would have to wait to see the baby. She made more calls and was told the same thing. The baby is now a year old, and we heard the mother invited her cousin's children to the birthday party but nobody else. The cousins have young children, too. My wife and I have a 12-year-old who is a second cousin. Should my wife say anything to the mother because our child was excluded? We don't want to cause bad feelings, but my wife is hurt.

LEFT OUT IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR LEFT OUT: Were your wife and her niece close before the baby was born? From what you have written, it doesn't appear so.

Because the pregnancy and delivery were difficult, it seems reasonable that the mother needed time to recover and adjust. With a year gone by, a birthday party given for the child and your wife still not receiving an invitation, I would say the niece isn't interested in maintaining a close relationship. Your wife may gain better insight into what has been going on if she talks with her niece's parents about her feelings.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am curious about proper etiquette when a dinner guest brings a bottle of wine. Should that bottle be offered/opened instead of the wine already opened by the host?

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



How should we respond to the guest?

CONFUSED IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR CONFUSED: No rule of etiquette requires you to open the wine your guest has brought and serve it instead of what you have chosen for the meal. Thank your guest for their generosity and put it aside to be used on another occasion or as a second bottle for that night's dinner.

■■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



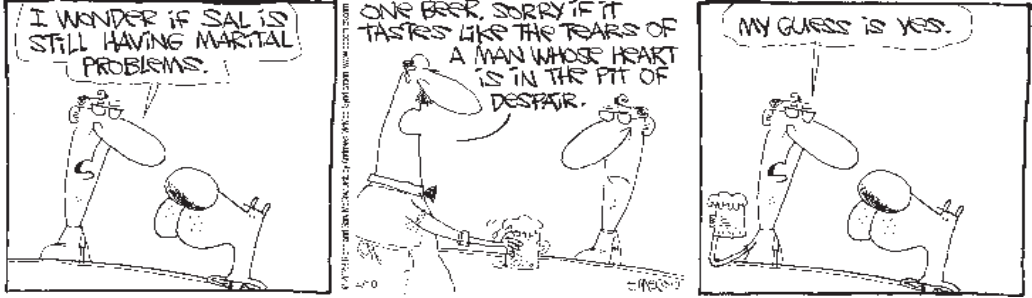
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 CEO's deg.
4 Grazing land
7 Champagne sound
11 Web addresses
13 Yellowstone grazer
14 Notion
15 — good example
16 Kimono closer
17 Chimed
18 Israeli port
20 Diminutive suffix
22 Author Umberto
24 Video game hub
28 Telepath
32 Van Gogh venue
33 Bellow
34 Fib
36 You love (Lat.)
37 Financial guru
39 Salad ingredient

DOWN

41 Mexican liquor
43 Fine, to NASA
44 Retain
46 Evil spells
50 Jazz style
53 Kitten's cry
55 Notes after "do"
56 Miles away
57 Flamenco cheer
58 Comfy-cozy
59 Bar bottles
60 Profit
61 Fireplace residue

1 Dogsled command

2 La — Tar Pits

3 Choir voices

4 Zodiac feline

5 North Sea feeder

6 Curly-tailed dog

7 July noise-makers

8 Lupino of film

9 Buddhist sect

10 Sharp turn

12 Code-breaking crooks

19 Essen exclamation

21 La-la lead-in

23 Black gold

25 — mater

26 Lifeless

27 Old U.S. gas brand

28 School event

29 Achy

30 Candied veggies

31 Spy org.

35 TV's Longoria

38 Scot's refusal

40 Sound of delight

42 Trouble-some car

45 Soccer legend

47 TV's "Warrior Princess"

48 Flightless birds

49 Un-uttered "alas"

50 Binge

51 "— Were a Boy" (song by Beyoncé)

52 Moving truck

54 Drenched

Last Friday's Answer 04/10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11			12		13			14	
15					16			17	
18				19		20		21	
		22		23		24		25	26
28	29	30			31		32		
33				34		35		36	
37			38		39		40		
41				42		43			
		44		45		46		47	48
50	51	52		53		54		55	
56				57				58	
59				60					61

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alex Pettyfer, 33; Shay Mitchell, 36; Dion Phaneuf, 38; Jasika Nicole, 43.

Happy Birthday: Do research and build opportunities that will lead you to your goals. Stick to your plans and exhaust every effort to make your dreams come true. Your diligence and flexibility will guide you in a direction that offers success and well-being. Keep your thoughts and emotions to yourself until you are positive the information you gather is valid and sustainable. Creative investments will pay off. Your numbers are 5, 17, 21, 23, 30, 39, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your actions will set the stage for what's to come. Finish what you start before you share with others. Refuse to let luxury tempt you. Say no to lavish suggestions or people who want to take advantage of something you have to offer. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take heed of what others say or ask of you before you agree to participate. Choose to take the road less traveled, and what unfolds will foretell the possibilities within reach. Embrace change that features personal or financial growth. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put your thoughts and feelings into perspective before you share with someone who can influence what happens next. Look out for your interests and how you handle your money to avoid outside interference. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Put in the time and leave nothing to chance. Your input will change the outcome and influence how well you do at work. Don't reveal personal information. Remaining somewhat myste-

rious to your superiors and co-workers will give you an edge. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Pick and choose the venues you attend with care. Mingling with people who can propose or withdraw an offer will help you tip the scales in your favor. Be upfront but not arrogant about what you can do, and you'll gain support. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take in as much information as possible. Set standards to help you maintain equality and sustainability in personal and professional relationships. The better you get along with others, the easier it will be to figure out what you need to know to advance. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Someone will expect you to prove yourself in situations at work. Don't take a back seat or let someone represent you. Speak from the heart, but don't reveal personal information that someone can use against you. Opportunity will grow from authenticity and goodwill. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put your energy where it counts. Learning, exploring and building a solid foundation for personal and professional gains will lead to your success. Work alongside people as dedicated and eager as you to reach your goal. A partnership looks inviting. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Emotions and confusion will arise if you let someone interfere or dictate how you handle matters. Don't second-guess yourself. Trust and believe in your ability to touch others with your vision and drum up support and help when necessary. ★★★★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		7	9			8	1		
	1				8	5	6		
6	8	9	1		5			7	
			6						
8				3	7		9	2	
9	3	2			4	7		6	
2		1		8	9				
7	4				6	9			
	9	6	4		1	8			

Difficulty: ★

4-10

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer

5	3	9	2	1	7	6	4	8
1	4	2	8	6	9	3	5	7
6	8	7	4	3	5	2	9	1
7	2	6	3	9	8	4	1	5
3	9	4	7	5	1	8	2	6
8	5	1	6	2	4	9	7	3
4	1	3	5	8	2	7	6	9
2	6	5	9	7	3	1	8	4
9	7	8	1	4	6	5	3	2

Difficulty: ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Think and follow through. Your ideas and solutions will be on target and help you make positive changes at home and in how you present yourself to others. Greater involvement in fitness or health regimens that incorporate socializing will boost your confidence. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Refuse to let something that requires your time and effort stand in your way. Pick up your pace and do whatever it takes to implement your plans. If you lay the path to victory, others will acknowledge your capabilities and value. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Stifle your emotions, and pay attention to what those around you are going through. Your insight when helping others will, in turn, help you recognize what you can do to make your life better. Money management will get you back on track. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, articulate and responsive. You are attentive and protective.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THE HANGING GARDENS OF SINGAPORE Solution: 12 letters

C	L	I	M	A	T	E	D	A	N	E	M	O	R	P
T	H	E	A	T	E	R	S	A	N	D	S	O	I	E
S	Y	V	A	N	D	A	N	N	E	C	C	N	T	V
Y	R	S	D	V	R	E	W	U	B	K	E	K	C	O
R	E	K	A	I	E	T	A	A	S	T	V	L	A	R
O	L	Y	M	T	H	S	L	F	S	H	O	A	C	G
T	L	L	A	G	N	A	C	H	E	R	H	E	R	W
A	A	I	Z	A	O	A	R	R	S	C	G	A	M	E
V	G	N	E	N	B	O	F	O	U	A	E	T	A	R
R	R	E	Y	I	F	L	I	L	L	V	V	E	R	T
E	O	D	T	D	E	L	O	F	A	E	I	R	O	R
S	W	A	U	N	L	E	T	O	H	R	L	F	N	E
N	T	O	U	R	I	S	T	O	M	N	O	A	A	P
O	L	I	L	Y	P	O	N	D	T	N	A	L	P	U
C	R	O	S	E	M	O	D	R	E	W	O	L	F	S

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Amaze, Balcony, Bloom, Cacti, Climate, Cloud Forest, Conservatory, Fauna, Floral Fantasy, Flower Dome, Fog, Gallery, Grow, Habitat, Hotel, Lawn, Leaves, Lily Pond, Lush, Olive Grove, Orchid, Panoramic, Pine, Plant, Promenade, Rocks, Rose, Sands, Skyline, Soil, Supertree Grove, Theater, The Cavern, Tourist, Vanda, Walk, Waterfall

Last Friday's Answer: Mushroom

The NEW Volume 70 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

NBA set for final day, and West race will go to the wire

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER



The NBA will get what it wanted—drama to end the regular season.

All 30 teams will play their 82nd game of the season on Sunday, with four matchups—New Orleans at Minnesota, Utah at the Los Angeles Lakers, Golden State at Portland and the Los Angeles Clippers at Phoenix—set to decide how the Western Conference playoff and play-in bracket will look.

There are 16 possible seeding scenarios, based on the outcomes of those four games. And they'll all be starting at 3:30 p.m. Eastern, with no games scheduled to play later, meaning it's possible that the final shot of the regular season might be the one that fills out the bracket.

For the defending NBA champion Warriors and the Clippers, the math is easy: Win Sunday, and they're in the playoffs and about to get a week off to get ready for Round 1 matchups against either Sacramento or Phoenix. Lose Sunday, and the play-in tournament—which starts Tuesday—might be the daunting consolation prize.

Jazz beat conference-leading Nuggets, 118-114

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Ochai Agbaji scored 28 points to lead the Utah Jazz to a 118-114 victory over the Western Conference leading Denver Nuggets on Saturday, snapping a four-game losing streak.

Luka Samanic finished with a career-high 23 points and eight rebounds for Utah. Kris Dunn chipped in 19 points, a season-high 14 assists and eight rebounds. Simone Fontecchio added 15 points.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored a season-high 21 points for the Nuggets. Jamal Murray added 20 points and five assists. Aaron Gordon and Michael Porter Jr. chipped in 15 points apiece. Nikola Jokic tallied 10 rebounds and 10 assists.

Denver lost for the fifth time in six games.

CLIPPERS 136, TRAIL BLAZERS 125

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kawhi Leonard scored 27 points, Norman Powell added 23 and the Los Angeles Clippers solidified their hopes of avoiding the play-in game.

Russell Westbrook had 20 points for the Clippers, who have won four of their last six and hold the fifth spot in the Western Conference.



Golden State Warriors head coach Steve Kerr, right, greets Stephen Curry, left, who heads to the bench during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the San Antonio Spurs in San Francisco, Friday, March 31, 2023.

"It's the only thing that we can control," Golden State coach Steve Kerr said. "There's other games that can factor in, but it doesn't matter to us as long as we win. That's a great position to be in and we've got to go do something about it."

This much of the West is

settled: Denver is the No. 1 seed, Memphis is No. 2, Sacramento is No. 3, Phoenix is No. 4, and Oklahoma City will be No. 10 for the play-in tournament.

The rest goes down to the wire.

The Clippers could be fifth, sixth or seventh. The Warriors could be fifth, sixth, seventh or eighth. The Lakers could be sixth, seventh or eighth. The Timberwolves could be seventh, eighth or ninth—and the Pelicans, somehow, have all the bases covered. New Orleans could be No. 5, No. 6, No. 7, No. 8 or No. 9 in the West when the final whistle blows on Sunday.

"We've got one more game to handle our business," Pelicans coach Willie Green told

his team Friday night.

There are some very simple possibilities Sunday:

■ The loser of the New Orleans-Minnesota game will be the No. 9 seed and hosting Oklahoma City in an elimination game on Wednesday.

■ The Clippers are the No. 5 seed with a win and will face the Suns in Round 1, after also seeing them in Sunday's finale

■ New Orleans gets the No. 5 seed if it wins, combined with wins by Phoenix and Portland.

■ The Lakers will be the No. 8 seed and on the road for a play-in game Tuesday if they lose to Utah. They would be No. 6 or No. 7 with a win, except if the Pelicans, Warriors and Suns all also win. That scenario would

leave the Lakers No. 8.

■ There is a chance for a Clippers-Lakers play-in game to happen on Tuesday night. New Orleans and Phoenix would both have to win as part of the formula, and then there would have to be Lakers-Warriors, Jazz-Warriors or Jazz-Blazers wins as well.

■ The Warriors are the No. 5 seed (facing Phoenix) or the No. 6 seed (facing Sacramento in a matchup of teams separated by about 90 miles) with a win. If the Warriors and Clippers both win, Golden State is No. 6. Otherwise, a Warriors win clinches the No. 5 seed.

"Whatever team we play, I think we'll be ready for," Warriors guard Donte DiVincenzo said.

TIMBERWOLVES 151, SPURS 131

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Anthony Edwards had 33 points in 25 minutes and Minnesota routed San Antonio at the Moody Center.

Karl-Anthony Towns added 22 points, Mike Conley had 20 points and Rudy Gobert had 10 points and 13 rebounds for Minnesota.

The Timberwolves shot 56% on 3-pointers in winning for the sixth time in nine games. Minnesota will finish no lower than ninth in the Western Conference but still have a chance of passing New Orleans for eighth.

Julian Champagnie had 24 points to lead San Antonio, which will finish with one of the league's three worst records. Keita Bates-Diop added 22 points and Tre Jones had 21 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds.

NBA opens investigation into Dallas' move to sit players

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

The NBA wants to know why the Dallas Mavericks held out several key players in their next-to-last game of the season, even while the team still had a mathematical chance of making the play-in tournament.

NBA officials opened an investigation Saturday into the Mavericks' decision-making surrounding Friday's game against the Chicago Bulls, in which Dallas sat Kyrie Irving for the entire game and Luka Doncic for most of the contest. The Mavericks blew an 11-point fourth-quarter lead and lost, getting eliminated from post-season consideration.

That outcome also could help ensure that Dallas has a top-10 draft pick this summer — and with it, potentially

a 4.5% chance of winning the lottery and getting the opportunity to select French phenom Victor Wembanyama.

"The NBA commenced an investigation today into the facts and circumstances surrounding the Dallas Mavericks' roster decisions and game conduct with respect to last night's Chicago Bulls-Mavericks game, including the motivations behind those actions," league spokesman Mike Bass said.

Potential penalties are unclear, though Commissioner Adam Silver made clear before the season began that the league wouldn't tolerate any obvious attempts at tanking.

"I know that many of our NBA teams are salivating at the notion that potentially through our lottery that they could get (Wembanyama), so they should all still compete

very hard next season," Silver said in October.

Dallas coach Jason Kidd said before the game that the decision to sit players was made by "the organization," and referenced it being made by his bosses—owner Mark Cuban and general manager Nico Harrison—after the game as well.

Dallas had Irving, Tim Hardaway Jr., Maxi Kleber, Josh Green and Christian Wood all out for Friday's win-or-else game, and it limited Doncic to about one quarter of play before pulling him for the remainder of the contest. Doncic played briefly on a night that paid tribute to his native Slovenia, with the Mavericks handing out souvenir Slovenia-themed scarves to the first 3,500 fans in attendance. He came out less than a minute into the

EAST BRACKET

The Eastern Conference bracket is set, regardless of Sunday's outcomes. No. 1 Milwaukee, No. 2 Boston, No. 3 Philadelphia, No. 4 Cleveland, No. 5 New York and No. 6 Brooklyn have playoff berths locked. No. 7 Miami will face No. 8 Atlanta in a play-in game Tuesday, No. 9 Toronto plays No. 10 Chicago in an elimination game Wednesday, and the Heat-Hawks loser faces the Raptors-Bulls winner on Friday.

The Heat-Hawks winner will play Boston in Round 1. The winner of the Friday game will play Milwaukee in Round 1.

SCORING RACE

Philadelphia's Joel Embiid will be the scoring champion for a second consecutive year, averaging 33.1 points per game. His closest pursuers—Dallas' Luka Doncic (32.4) and Portland's Damian Lillard (32.2)—are done for the season, and Embiid won't play Sunday in a meaningless finale for Philadelphia.

Doncic and Lillard both did something this season that only one other player had pulled off in the last 59 seasons combined.

Before this season, only two players had ever averaged at least 32 points per game and not won the scoring crown. Allen Iverson (33.0) was second to the Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant (35.4) in 2005-06, and Elgin Baylor (who averaged 34.0 points in 1962-63, 38.3 in 1961-62 and 34.8 in 1960-61) was the other player on that list.

Baylor lost the scoring race in all three of those seasons to Wilt Chamberlain.

second quarter.

The Mavs cited right foot injury recovery for Irving, right hamstring injury recovery for Kleber, left ankle soreness for Hardaway and rest for both Wood and Green. All five of those players—plus Doncic—played Wednesday in Dallas' win over Sacramento.

"The organization, they made this decision," Kidd said before Friday's game, later adding, "we have to go by that."

Postgame, Kidd added: "This is maybe a step back, but hopefully it leads to going forward. ... These are decisions that are made from my bosses and we've got to follow them and we trust that Cuban and Nico are going to put the pieces together to put us in a position to win a championship. And that's just starting the process today."

Rays 8-0, majors best start in 20 years, beat A's 11-0



ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.

(AP)—The Tampa Bay Rays extended Major League Baseball's best start in 20 years behind Jeffrey Springs' seven innings of three-hit ball and Randy Arozarena's four RBIs, routing the Oakland Athletics 11-0 Saturday for an 8-0 record.

Tampa Bay is the first big league team to open 8-0 since the 2003 Kansas City Royals won their first nine games. The Rays have outscored opponents 64-18 and are the first team to win its first eight games by four or more runs since the 1884 St. Louis Maroons of the Union Association did it in their first 13.

"When you're winning games like this, a lot of things got to be going well," Tampa Bay manager Kevin Cash said. "So, I think we're all pretty impressed with every facet out there."

No team had won eight straight games by that margin at any point in a season since the 1939 Yankees did it 10 times in a row.

Isaac Paredes and Brandon Lowe had three RBIs each for the Rays.

Springs (2-0), coming off six, no-hit innings in his season debut against Detroit, gave up a leadoff single in the first to Esteury Ruiz. He struck out seven, raising his total to 19 in 13 innings.

"Early on kind of fought mechanics," Springs said, "It was a grind. Overall, I felt alright, not great, but it helps a lot when my offense is doing what they're doing."

Shintaro Fujinami (0-2) allowed five runs, three hits, four walks and hit a batter over 4 1/3 innings in his second major league start. The right-hander didn't allow a hit until Wander Franco's infield single with one out in the fourth.

"I started off pretty well in the first three innings," Fujinami said through a translator. "But the fourth inning I walked a guy, and from there it kind of went down."

Fujinami, who signed as free agent in January after pitching 10 years for Hanshin of Japan's Central League, allowed eight runs over 2 1/3 innings in a 13-1 loss to the Los Angeles Angels in his big league debut on April 1. His next start could be at home against the Mets' Kodai Senga.

"It's sort of the same storyline from his first start," Oakland manager Mark Kotsay said. "Again, it's the ability to control the strike zone and throw strikes and challenge hitters. He only gave up three hits, but when you

give up five free passes it's generally not going to go well especially against good quality teams."

Oakland, which had just three hits, has lost six of eight and is batting .209. The team ERA is 7.00.

Tampa Bay scored three times in the fifth to go up 5-0 on three hit batters, two walks and a single. Arozarena ended Fujinami's day on a two-run single, and Paredes picked up an RBI when hit by a pitch from Sam Noll.

Arozarena had a two-run homer in the ninth off Carlos Pérez, usually a catcher.

Manuel Margot had a solo homer and Lowe added a three-run drive in the sixth off Domingo Acevedo.

METS 5, MARLINS 2

NEW YORK (AP)—Kodai Senga (2-0) won his Citi Field debut, pitching six innings of one-run, three-hit ball and wearing a Mets blue-and-orange glove with an image of a ghost and a pitchfork. He struck out six and walked three, allowing his only run on Jazz Chisholm Jr.'s leadoff homer in the sixth.

Pete Alonso chased Trevor Rogers (0-2) in the fifth with a two-run homer, his fourth homer in the past three games and fifth this season. Eduardo Escobar also homered, and David Robertson pitched a perfect ninth for his second save.

RED SOX 14, TIGERS 5

DETROIT (AP)—Rafael Devers homered twice, including his fifth career grand slam, and drove in five runs.

Devers' grand slam capped a six-run, second inning. Adam Duvall hit a two-run homer, doubled twice and scored three runs for Boston, which has scored nine or more runs in half its eight games. Raimel Tapia had a pinch two-run homer. Connor Wong and Rob Refsnyder also drove in two runs each.

Tanner Houck (2-0) gave up two runs and three hits in five innings. Joey Wentz (0-2) walked four in the second inning, including Connor Wong and Rob Refsnyder with the bases loaded.

PHILLIES 3, REDS 2

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bryon Stott capped a three-run rally in the ninth inning with a winning single as the Phillies won despite striking out 17 times.

Nick Lodolo struck out a career-high 12 and tossed three-hit ball over seven shutout innings, leaving with a lead provided by Spencer Steer's first-inning homer against Bailey Falter. Jake Fraley built a 2-0 margin with a sacrifice



Tampa Bay Rays' Randy Arozarena acknowledges the crowd from the dugout after hitting a two-run home run during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Oakland Athletics, Saturday, April 8, 2023, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

fly in the ninth off Andrew Vazquez (1-0).

Brandon Marsh's RBI single off Alexis Díaz (0-1) and Edmundo Sosa's sacrifice fly against Ian Giabuti tied the score.

CUBS 10, RANGERS 3

CHICAGO (AP)—Justin Steele (1-0) allowed one run and four hits in six innings as Chicago won its third straight.

Patrick Wisdom homered and Trey Mancini had three of Chicago's 14 hits. Dansby Swanson had two hits and is batting .429 (12 for 28) in his first seven games with the Cubs after signing a \$177 million, seven-year contract.

Texas committed five errors in its fourth loss in five games, and a balk by Martín Pérez (1-1) set up Chicago's first run. Pérez (1-1) gave up three runs, two earned, and five hits in five innings.

ROYALS 6, GIANTS 5

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Salvador Pérez hit a tying, three-run homer in the eighth inning and pinch-runner Nate Eaton scored on a wild pitch in the ninth by Camilo Doval (0-1) after Vinnie Pasquino doubled and advanced on Hunter Dozier's groundout.

Taylor Clarke (1-0) struck out the side in the eighth and Aroldis Chapman pitched a scoreless ninth to earn his first save with the Royals.

Kansas City is 2-2 under bench coach Paul Hoover, the interim manager, while Matt Quattraro has been away with COVID-19.

TWINS 9, ASTROS 6

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Byron Buxton and Kyle Farmer hit three-run homers, and Christian Vázquez had two RBI singles, one a tiebreaking hit off Seth Martinez (1-1) in the sixth.

Joe Ryan (2-0) recovered from Yordan Alvarez's grand slam to win his second straight start, giving up four runs and three hits in six innings with 10 strikeouts. Jhoan Duran struck out Yainer Diaz with two on for his second save.

MARINERS 3, GUARDIANS 2

CLEVELAND (AP)—Eugenio Suárez hit RBI singles in the first and second innings off Cal Quantrill (0-1), who entered 14-0 in 34 regular-season starts at Progressive Field. Quantrill had not lost a home start since Sept. 9, 2019, with San Diego.

Marco Gonzales (1-0) allowed one run in 5 2/3 innings, and Seattle won its sixth straight at Cleveland. Paul Sewald put two on in the ninth before getting his second save in two days.

Jarred Kelenic also had an RBI single in the first.

YANKEES 4, ORIOLES 1

BALTIMORE (AP)—Giancarlo Stanton hit a 436-foot, 116.3 mph homer to cap New York's three-run fifth inning, his 26th homer of at least 116 mph since 2015, when Statcast began tracking. Teammate Aaron Judge, with 15, is the only other player with more than six.

Anthony Volpe tripled for his first big league extra-base hit, Jhony Brito (2-0) allowed a run in five innings in his second career start and slumping Aaron Hicks delivered a crucial RBI single.

Cole Irvin (0-2) walked four batters in 4 2/3 innings in his first home start since the Orioles acquired him in an offseason trade with Oakland.

CARDINALS 6, BREWERS 0

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Nolan Arenado hit his 300th homer and 20-year-old Jordan Walker hit the second of his young career as St. Louis mounted a pair of two-run drives in the third inning off Eric Lauer (1-1). The Cardinals ended a four-game skid and stopped the Milwaukee's six-game winning streak.

Jordan Montgomery (2-0) struck out nine and allowed three hits and two walks in seven innings.

WHITE SOX 11, PIRATES 5

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Yasmani Grandal, Luis Robert Jr., Oscar Colás had two hits and drove in two runs each.

Tim Anderson, Andrew Benintendi and Andrew Vaughn also had two hits each for Chicago, which had 14 hits, and Ivis Andrus also drove in two runs.

Mike Clevinger (2-0) gave up four runs and eight hits in 5 1/3 innings. Vince Velasquez (0-2) allowed five runs, six hits and four walks in 2 2/3 innings.

PADRES 4, BRAVES 1

ATLANTA (AP)—Michael Wacha (2-0) matched his career high with 10 strikeouts, his first double-digit game since June 2015. He allowed two hits over six innings—both by Matt Olson.

Juan Soto homered in the third off Charlie Morton (1-1), who gave up three runs, two earned, six hits and three walks in five innings.

San Diego closer Josh Hader struck out Orlando Arcia with two on for his third save. Hader finished a five-hitter with the 15th strikeout by Padres pitchers.

DIAMONDBACKS 12, DODGERS 8

PHOENIX (AP)—Ketel Marte and Geraldo Perdomo each hit two-run homers in the second off Noah Syndergaard (0-1) and Alek Thomas had four of Arizona's 17 hits as the Diamondbacks overcame a 4-0 deficit.

James Outman hit two-run homer in the Dodgers' four-run first, the rookie's third homer in nine games.

Diamondbacks starter Zach Davies left in the fifth inning with a strained left oblique. Kyle Nelson (1-0) pitched a scoreless inning.

NATIONALS 7, ROCKIES 6

DENVER (AP)—Stone Garrett had four hits and five RBIs, homering and doubling twice.

Trevor Williams (1-1) allowed two runs and five hits in 5 1/3 innings for the Rockies, who have lost six of seven. Austin Gomber (0-2) gave up five runs and seven hits in 4 2/3 innings.

Washington led 7-2 in the ninth before Mike Moustakas hit his first home run for the Rockies, a two-run drive off Anthony Banda. Elías Díaz had a two-run single against Carl Edwards Jr., who struck out Kris Bryant with two on for his first save this season.

ANGELS 9, BLUE JAYS 5

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Mike Trout hit a three-run homer in the fifth inning, and the Los Angeles Angels roared back from a 4-0 deficit.

Shohei Ohtani doubled and scored in the fourth before Trout capped a four-run rally in the fifth by homering in his second straight game for the Angels, who have won five of seven. Hunter Renfroe hit his first homer for the Angels and drove in three runs, while Luis Rengifo also homered in the fifth.

Jaime Barria (1-0) escaped a jam in the fifth for Los Angeles. José Berrios (0-2) gave up six hits and four earned runs while pitching into the fifth.

NMA 10K Road Race, Oral Cancer Awareness 5K set

By LEIGH GASES

leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In lieu of the Saipan Marathon's 10K run, the Northern Marianas Athletics is hosting a 10K Road Race in conjunction with the CHCC Oral Cancer Awareness 5K Walk/Run this Saturday, April 15.

The course is the same as the previous NMA Women's Run that began at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Club Elan parking lot.

The 5K walk/run is already sold out, but slots for

the 10K are still open.

The registration fee is \$15 and will end tomorrow, Tuesday. For the U18 2x5K Team Mix Relay (1 male and 1 female) event, the registration fee is \$10.



The Top 3 male and female will receive medals from NMA.

Robin Sapong, NMA general secretary, said "we decided to organize the 10K run just to offer a race option for those that had planned to run in this year's Saipan full/half marathon 10K run."

To register, click on this link <https://raceroster.com/events/2023/74064/northern-marianas-athletics-10km-road-race-2023>

Sponsors of the event are Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Run Saipan, and the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

LAO ZHANG

The Northern Marianas Athletics 10K Road Race and CHCC Oral Cancer Awareness 5K run/walk is set for this Saturday and will start and end at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Club Elan parking lot.



GOLD

From Page 20

mance that he is not at all satisfied, but "I was glad I got to compete and set a positive example for my family. That was the main reason I competed."

"I've been training on and off because of multiple injuries and personal life. I pushed the pace a little bit two weeks before the competition and trained everyday just to prepare, because

Atlanta is a major city and there [were] going to be tough competitors. One of them was a former NFL cornerback for the Carolina Panthers," said Nicko.

Before this, the younger Salem won gold in the South Carolina Youth Wrestling Association Rookie/Novice State Championship for the girls division and silver in the mixed division last Jan. 29, in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Nicko is a U.S. Marine and

a 2012 graduate of Saipan Southern High School, while his wife and Nickole's mother, Maria Victoria, is an alumnae of Marianas High School.

They now reside in Charleston, South Carolina.

The North American Grappling Association is the world's largest mixed grappling tournament with over 700,000 competitors worldwide. NAGA tournaments offer both no-gi (no uniform) and gi (uniform) divisions.

FALCONS

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other three-run inning for the Falcons as Peter Lieto came home and Ian Norita hit a double. He was then brought home by Giovanni Mira's single.

The Falcons went scoreless in the third and fourth inning and got a piece of the ball with a base hit from Henry Aguon, who advanced to second with a stolen base.

It was a slow burn for the

Bandits as they had a three-run fourth inning after Juan Iguel was hit by a pitch, followed by two consecutive walks by Wilson and Nakamura, who were then brought in by Jesus Iguel.

The seventh inning stretch was another three-run inning for the Bandits as back-to-back base hits by Taisacan and Jesus Iguel allowed Emu Wally to bring them home.

In the standings, the Falcons and Cardinals are on top with two wins apiece. The Bandits are at 1-1. While

with one win each are the Bears and the Natives. The Blue Jays, D-9er's, Junior Nationals, Brewers, SPC Survivors, and Braves have one loss each.

This week, the Natives face off with the Junior Nationals tomorrow night; then it's the Braves versus the Blue Jays on Wednesday; it's the Bears versus the SPC Survivors on Thursday; and the Brewers-Cardinals game on Friday caps off the third week of the season.

FORMER

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said the longtime IT&E employee had been fighting stage 3 liver cancer since October of last year.

"My family wanted to seek another specialist for his medical needs besides the cancer. That is when he and my mother flew to Palau in February to try and get a referral to Taiwan," she said.

Yamada was born in Kayangel, a tiny island 15 miles north of Koror, and moved to Saipan permanently in 1986 where he worked for MTC, Verizon, and PTI—all former names of IT&E.

Yamada's coach in the 1987 South Pacific Games team, Sonny Flores, said his former ward was a great leader.

"I had him in my last Hawks team. It was surprised to hear him say that it was his first time as champion in the BANMI league. He was the best center during his time. He was more of a slicer as he always drove inside with speed," he said.

His teammate on that squad, Elias Rangamar, said Yamada was one of the quickest center/forwards he ever played with.

"The first time I played against him in the men's league, he picked my pocket like three in a row. Never experienced that ever. He was also a great shot blocker. We will miss him surely. Had great rivalries when he played for coach Sonny Flores in the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

After retiring from IT&E, Poland Yamada, second from left, did carvings as a hobby, but mostly enjoyed having a cold beer while watching softball games or the company of his grandchildren.

Hawks. They won several titles with him as the catalyst in the bottom," said the NMSA Hall of Famer.

Tony Rogolifoi also has fond memories of playing against the tall but lightning-quick slotman.

"I met Poland Yamada for the first time I believe, in the early or mid-'80s at a basketball game in Chalan Kanoa at the WSR outdoor court. He played for Eli Rangamar's PeaceMakers team while I was a coach/player representing Team Kana-ka. That's when I witnessed the

tall and slender Poland's basketball skills. His execution on the court, particularly on defense, was just amazing."

Rogolifoi, who like Rangamar is a Hall of Famer, said few players on Saipan had that kind of skill before Yamada's arrival.

"Utilizing his 6'0" frame, his jumping ability and his quickness in the paint defensively, he would wreak havoc on opposing teams, slapping away multiple attempts at the basket with his long arms and high vertical jump. Offensively, I would

consider Poland a deadly force under the basket as he is also capable of dunking as well."

Yamada and Rogolifoi eventually would become teammates in the aforementioned 1987 CNMI team in the South Pacific Games in Noumea.

"We played much taller players from the bigger islands in the South Pacific but we did well thanks to Poland's rebounding skills. I am proud to compete alongside him. He continued to play in the local leagues, both basketball and softball, before retiring. We just lost an outstanding athlete who has accomplished and contributed a lot in terms of sports in the CNMI. We were good friends and I will surely miss him. He is a humble, respectful person, with a sense of humor that will not be forgotten. Farewell my friend and may you rest in peace!" he said.

Former national hoops coach Rufino Aguon, another Hall of Famer, said while a fierce competitor inside the court, Yamada was a funnyman off it.

"There are a lot of great memories. It's really hard to pinpoint one but I will always remember him as a very tenacious competitor both on and off the court. On the court he lets his actions speak for him, but off court he would challenge us to go all out. But afterward he is humble and a comedian," he said.

Many time NMSA Coach of the Year, Hall of Fame inductee, and national tennis coach Jeff Race said many don't

know but he actually was teammates with Yamada in a basketball team in the early '90s.

"Poland and I met over 30 years ago. We played on the same team in a basketball league way back then. He even briefly worked at my wife's business. But Poland loved sports and he loved his family. He also loved his home island of Kayangel," he said.

Race added he got to know Yamada more personally with his dealings with him as a longtime NMSA board member.

"Poland was a master woodcarver and for most of the last 20 years Poland supported the sports community by making trophies in the form of storyboards for inductees into the NMI Sports Hall of Fame. That always gave me a good reason to head over to Poland's house a couple of times a year to work with him on getting the trophies made. It wasn't really a business relationship, although he could do a little of that. But usually we spent a long while just hanging out catching up on each other's lives, families, and just telling a few stories or reminiscing. He followed local baseball, basketball, and would even follow the exploits of our local kids in tennis. I had a great affection for Poland and he for me. It is with great sadness that I mourn the passing of my long time friend, Poland," he said.

Former Division of Sports and Recreation director NMSA president, Saipan Swim Club co-founder, and NMSA Hall of Famer Bill Sa-

kovich said Yamada's passing is a great loss for the CNMI's sports community.

"Poland was a great athlete, helping the many teams he participated on and was willing to help me as necessary. On my side he was a true athlete and great guy. For awhile he was making the beautiful storyboard trophies for NMSA and other activities and for me personally as gifts," he said.

In retirement, Yamada continued to keep abreast with local sports happening, according to his daughter Rose.

"When he retired from IT&E he did carvings as a hobby. But mostly he enjoyed having a cold beer watching softball games or the company of his grandchildren."

Despite all his athletic accomplishments, Rose said she always admired him most for his love and devotion to his family.

"Just being the best dad a girl could ask for. Teaching me the easy ways of life and witnessing the love he had for his kids and how they know grandpa will always be there for us," she said.

She then thanked everyone for the outpouring of support her family received following her dad's passing last week.

"The love and prayers my family have received these past days is incredible. My father was a very wise, humble, and simple kind of guy that anyone can get along with. So we greatly appreciate everyone reaching out," she said.



NBA set for final day, and West race will go to the wire

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NMA 10K Road Race, Oral Cancer Awareness 5K set

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Former national cager Poland Yamada passes away

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Former national basketball player and famed wood carver Poland Yamada passed away last April 14 from cancer in his native Palau. He was 67 years old.

The 6-foot Yamada represented the CNMI in basketball in the 1987 South Pacific Games in Noumea, New Caledonia and was part of the champion team Hawks in leagues organized by the old Basketball Association of the

Northern Mariana Islands.

He also suited up in various baseball, softball, and volleyball leagues on island and was an accomplished wood-carver and for years sculpted the ornate storyboards given to Hall of Fame inductees of the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association, the precursor of the NMSA.

Yamada, who would've turned 68 years old this coming Oct. 15, is survived by his wife Maryann Naputi and children Bo Milong, Jose Mista, Rosemary "Rose"

Komtilde, and four grandchildren—Kaden, Tuid, Tianna Esuroi, and Niko Lluul.

Daily mass for the eternal repose of Yamada's soul is being held at Santa Soledad Church until Wednesday. He will be buried in Palau.

Yamada's daughter, Rose, See **FORMER** on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The late Poland Yamada, left, waits for his flight to Noumea, New Caledonia, site of the 1987 South Pacific Games. To his right is Guam tennis player Vic April.



Gold for father-and-daughter duo

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

In the sport of grappling, CNMI father-and-daughter duo Nicko and Nickole Salem bagged gold in the North American Grappling Association Atlanta Grappling Championship last March 25 in Atlanta, Georgia.

In the men's 170- to 179-lb weight bracket, the 29-year-old Nicko, from Black Label Jiu-Jitsu, competed against five competitors and finished

with the gold.

Second to him was Hutch Romanos from Ascension MMA and third went to Roman Merletti from Ascension



MMA Alpha-
phareta.

For 6-year-old Nickole, she won gold in the children 8-9 division, GI female intermediate 50- to 59.9-lb division. Second was Bailey Smith and third was Stevie Rhinehart.

Nickole went on to win silver in the no-gi division and grabbed another silver in the children no-gi male division. Gold went to Charlie Rivera and bronze went to Jackson Sonnemaker.

Nicko said on his performance. See **GOLD** on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Father-and-daughter duo of Nicko and Nickole Salem from Saipan won gold in their respective divisions in the North American Grappling Association Atlanta Grappling Championship last March 25 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Falcons soar past Bandits in SBL, 9-8

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Falcons have bagged their second win of the Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League 2023 season after they soared

past the Bandits, 9-8, at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field last Wednesday night.

Both teams were tied at seven runs in the last inning which forced an extra inning. Into



the eighth, the Bandits' Harry Nakamura knocked in their eight run with a base-hit which brought in Juan Iguel.

When it was the Falcons' turn, two runs scored from an error by the Bandits and a sacrifice fly to end the game by one, 9-8.

The Falcons had an early lead as they scored three runs in the first after a lead-off walk, then another walk, followed by a two-RBI triple by Jordan Suel. He was in turn brought in by a base hit from Henry Augon.

The Bandits' John Wilson came home after he stole second and was brought in by a single from Ben Taisacan. However, the Bandits were silenced in the next three innings by Falcons pitcher Zeze Lifofoi.

The second inning was announced. See **FALCONS** on Page 19



LEIGH GASES

In this file photo, a Falcons batter waits for the pitch from the SFC Survivors pitcher during their game in the Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League 2023 season last March 28 at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.